

To Investigate the state of social mobility within the borough

Suggested by Councillor Lamb.

The proposed scope was to investigate the state of social mobility within the borough and practical steps which can be taken to ensure that a child's life chances are no longer capped.

There had been concern around the low level of social mobility within the town for some time and the Government's Social Mobility Commission has now highlighted the borough as one of the poorest locations in the country for social mobility and the worst in the South East.

It was suggested that the scope could include:

- a local perspective on the extent of the problem
- what the main challenges are in delivering greater social mobility
- practical steps which can be taken by Crawley Borough Council and other organisations to improve the life chances of those born into low income households

The findings of the [State of the Nation](#) social mobility report from the Social Mobility Commission (November 2017) showed Crawley as one of the worst performing areas in the country, and potentially one of the worst in the south east.

This could potentially be a very long, wide and complex scrutiny review. However as the social mobility index assesses the education, employability and housing prospects of people within the area, it may be possible for the review to be broken down into several subject areas (as mentioned) to give it focus and concentrating on where it can add most value. Therefore the scoping framework will need to accommodate this and could be achieved at the first meeting of the Panel.

Preliminary recommendation:

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission review the viability of the proposal and if supported, establish a scrutiny panel.**
- 2) Should a Panel be supported:**
 - a) Seek nominations (via Democratic Services) for the membership for the Panel, in accordance with political proportionality.**
 - b) Establish a scoping meeting in early 2018 with the Scrutiny Panel to commence in 2018/2019.**
 - c) Allow the Chair to confirm the terms of reference for the review.**