

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

The change we choose

- One of only a handful of councils in the country to freeze council tax this year rather than raise it
- Negotiated £140m from developers for local residents
- Highest-ever number of council-funded police on the beat
- Secured 529 new genuinely-affordable homes for residents
- Defending Charing Cross Hospital



Government funding to H&F Council is cut again

Since 2010, the government has **cut our funding by 66 per cent** and advised us there are more cuts to come.

This year, we've had to cut another £15.9million from our budgets.

At the same time the government has given us **extra** responsibilities, such as looking after some young adults. But they've not given us any extra money to pay for it.

With these unprecedented pressures we have taken a **radical new approach** to the way we make budget decisions.

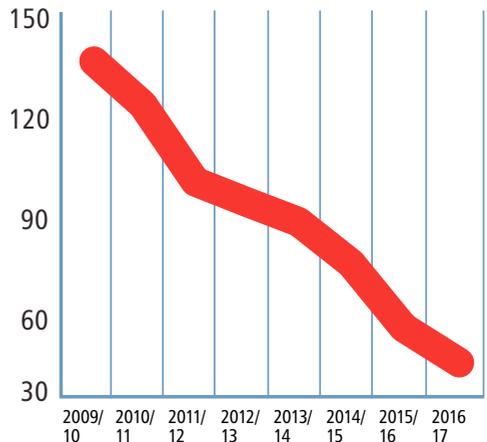
This means we have introduced **'zero-based' budgeting** to focus on the outcomes that are important to you rather than just spending on things because that's the way it's always been done.

We're basing our budget decisions on the changes we want to deliver, such as cutting £600,000 from senior management pay.

This booklet sets out these changes.

Where we're making savings	£'000s
Service reconfiguration	3,461
Selling services commercially	881
Debt reduction and restructuring	1,050
Better use of office space	510
Outside investment	1,792
Staffing and productivity savings	760
Tough stance on fraud	624
Income	1,038
Early intervention and preventative help	2,560
Procurement saving	3,181
Grand total	15,857

£m **Government Funding for H&F**



* Figures adjusted on a like-for-like basis

Defending Charing Cross Hospital

Our top priority is to save Charing Cross Hospital and other local health services.

We commissioned Michael Mansfield QC to run a landmark public inquiry into the North West London NHS 'Shaping a Healthier Future' programme, including its plans to axe blue-light A&E services at Charing Cross.

The commission's report says the hospital shake-up is **'deeply flawed'** and should be halted immediately.

The report from Michael Mansfield QC is a watershed moment.

It provides firm evidence that these changes to local health services are badly planned, hugely costly and causing life-threatening failures in local healthcare.

The only sensible decision is to halt the hospital demolition right now.

You can read the full report and view our video at: www.lbhf.gov.uk/hospitals

The independent commission uncovered shocking details of:

- costs spiralling from £235million to £1.3billion
- a growing crisis in emergency services
- GP services failing to meet demand.



H&F Council
Leader
Stephen
Cowan

Standing up for residents

- We've worked with residents and succeeded in getting Thames Water to drop the worst of their chosen sites for works to build the **Counters Creek** storm relief sewer.



- We set up an independent residents' commission and have backed their plans to oppose **Heathrow** airport expansion.

- We're leading the fight to defend local **hospital services** and brought together five west London councils who funded the independent Mansfield public inquiry (more details on page 3 and back page).



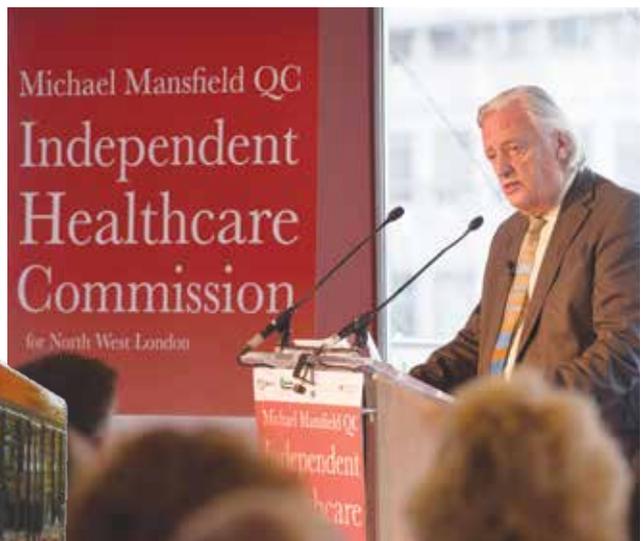
Defending Charing Cross Hospital - our only remaining local A&E service



- We're working with **schools** to resist changes to their national funding scheme that could see fewer teachers or even threaten some schools' survival.

- We are stepping up our calls for a **new station** at Imperial Wharf on the new Crossrail 2 train line.

- We backed residents' fight against plans to re-route the **424 bus route** that many people rely on and forced TfL to meet and listen to residents' views.



Michael Mansfield QC unveils the Independent Healthcare Commission's final report at Royal Festival Hall in December

How we're cutting waste

- We've cut meals on wheels charges to £2 from £4.50 and cut 16 other council **charges**.
- We've secured £140million for local people by **negotiating property deals** with developers.
- We've committed to keeping and improving our **children's centres** and **libraries**.
- We're making our **website** easier to use, especially on mobiles, and we now have free wifi in town centres.
- We've cut spending on **senior managers** saving £600,000 a year.
- We've **scrapped** glossy magazines and lamppost banners.
- We've saved the H&F Law Centre with a £140,000 grant, ensuring **legal advice** for citizens who are most in need and least able to pay.



More funds for local theatres

and improving services

- This year, we are one of the few councils in the country to have **frozen council tax** rather than increase it. Last year, we were the only council in London to cut council tax.
- We've saved and expanded the **Lyric Theatre** and funded **Bush Theatre**.
- **Councillors cut their special responsibility allowances** (their pay) **by 10 per cent**.
- We're retaining current **bin collection** frequency.
- We've increased funding to the voluntary sector by 25 per cent with a new emphasis on **homelessness** and **social inclusion**.
- We're cutting waste in **office costs** and payments to suppliers.
- We've cut £3million of losses from **housing fraud** and recovered 129 illegally-occupied social housing properties and allocated them to families that need them.
- After saving Sullivan school from closure, we have been working with community schools and free schools to create **more school places** in H&F.



Sullivan school saved



Making H&F a nicer, safer

- After receiving 71 per cent support in the formal consultation, we're extending the number of **20mph safer zones** to save lives, reduce serious accidents and make our streets more pleasant (see page 14).
- We're working to improve **air quality** - we've set up a residents' commission to advise us; we're bringing in more electric vehicle charging points; and we're developing a low-emission zone.
- We're making our streets **safer for cyclists** and **pedestrians** with new, safer cycle routes and improved traffic junctions.
- We're supporting local **'play street'** events, temporarily closing streets and providing new, safe places for children to play together outside.



Safer cycling planned for the borough



place to live



Wormholt Park



- We've supported the community-run **HF ArtsFest** with more than 100 events on offer to showcase the borough's rich cultural offerings and diversity.
- We've put the most council-funded **police officers** on the streets in the borough's history. That means there are 44 more police officers now working in H&F to keep you safe and making up for national cuts in police funding.
- We're taking a tough approach to tackling the worst **littering** and **dumped rubbish** hot spots.
- Eleven **parks** have won Green Flag quality status and we've started work on a £1million refurbishment of Wormholt Park.

Doing the right thing



- We've renegotiated the failing privatised **transport service** for children and adults with special needs.
- We've guaranteed to continue **Independent Living Fund** payments to severely disabled people.
- We've halted the **sale of council homes** to property developers.
- We've launched a **credit union** in the heart of the White City Estate helping thousands of residents access fair finance and plan for their future.
- We're supporting the borough's **Foodbanks** including opening a new one, and we've introduced **advisors** in Citizens Advice Bureaux and Foodbanks to tackle the causes of poverty.
- We've developed our **community independence** service to help more people to live at home.



Launch of White City Credit Union



● We've abolished **home care charges** and we are now one of only two councils in England who don't levy this 'tax on disability'.

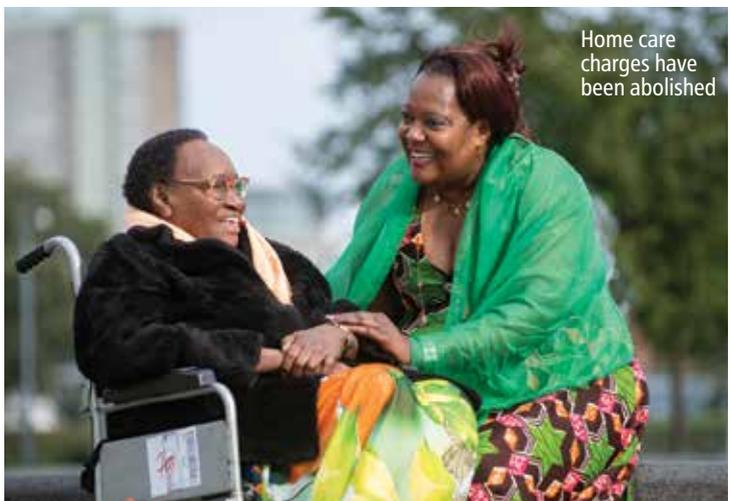
● We've abolished 15-minute-only **home care visits** to give elderly and disabled people more time for the care they need.

● We've negotiated for **529 new genuinely-affordable homes** to be built for local residents and more homes are on the way.

● We've funded new measures to reduce **homelessness**.



H&F Foodbank founder and manager Daphine Aikens



Home care charges have been abolished

Working with you to get t

More people than ever before are taking an active part in local decisions. Here's how.

- Resident-led commissions are now working with us to develop council policies. Among others, these include **air quality; poverty and worklessness**; and how to make H&F the **best place for businesses in the EU**.
- We're strengthening ties with the **armed forces**.
- We're supporting the British Legion using an empty council property to host the annual **Poppy Appeal** - raising record sums.
- A new residents' working party is looking into the options for redeveloping **Hammersmith town centre**, including proposals to replace **Hammersmith flyover** with a tunnel.



Armed forces lead member Cllr Alan De'Ath with local cadets

things done



North End Road
traffic-free market



- A resident-led commission has developed new options on the future ownership and management of council homes with the aim of **protecting residents from developers** and giving residents more control of their homes.

- We're working with residents to negotiate a better deal on the **West Kensington and Gibbs Green** estates.

- We've teamed up with the North End Road Action Group and traders to run a series of hugely successful **traffic-free markets** to help revitalise the North End Road.

- We've put residents in the driving seat of work to improve **Wormholt** and **Hammersmith parks**.

- Youngsters from 10 local primary schools took over Hammersmith Town Hall for the annual **Children's Parliament** on the environment.

- We've brought in a **new openness** with developer negotiations: publishing details of our meetings on our website; banning councillors from taking hospitality from developers; and giving residents new rights on planning and building design.



Hammersmith Park

Majority support for more 20mph speed limits



Plans to make roads safer by extending 20mph speed limits are set to be agreed in March.

In one of our biggest-ever consultations, **71 per cent supported wider speed controls.**

The results:

- **Yes** on all roads (except TfL roads) **45 per cent**
- **Yes**, except some main roads **26 per cent**
- **No** to any new speed controls **29 per cent.**

Some people named particular roads where they'd like to see a 30mph limit retained. We've listened and will **exclude main roads outside town centres.**

Benefits of reduced speeds:

Fewer and less severe injuries

Collisions at lower speeds are less likely to cause deaths or serious injuries. Of the 763 people injured in a collision in H&F in 2014, almost half were cyclists or pedestrians.

A better quality of life

Lower speed reduces congestion.

What next?

Work to implement the new speed limit should begin later this year and will be funded by Transport for London.

>> Read more online at www.lbhf.gov.uk/20mph

Some of the change we choose

A summary of achievements:

- Ten per cent cut in councillors' allowances
- **Sullivan Primary School saved**
- Charing Cross Hospital defended
- **Property deals negotiated - winning a record £140million from developers for residents**
- The most local police funded by the council in H&F's history
- **Abolished home care charges for the elderly and disabled**
- Guaranteed to continue Independent Living Fund payments to severely disabled people
- **Cut meals on wheels charges from £4.50 to £2 and cut 16 other council charges**
- Funded new measures to reduce homelessness
- **25 per cent increase in voluntary sector funding**
- Support for local Foodbanks including setting up a new Foodbank to meet unprecedented demand
- **Delivering a programme to turn H&F's residential streets into 20mph safer zones**
- 529 new genuinely-affordable homes for residents on the way
- **Guaranteed no cuts in refuse collection or street cleaning**
- Saved the Lyric Theatre and funded the Bush Theatre
- **Saved H&F Law Centre with £140,000 funding grant ensuring legal advice for the borough's citizens most in need but least able to pay**
- Saved £600,000 by cutting the number of senior managers and taking new measures to strip out council wastefulness
- **Only council in London to cut council tax last year and only one of a handful of councils to freeze it this year instead of raising it**

Defending Charing Cross Hospital



Michael Mansfield QC unveils the Independent Healthcare Commission's final report at Royal Festival Hall

H&F Council Leader Stephen Cowan said: "We are calling on all those responsible for the closures to stop and think again.

"If they do that, we will talk to them. If they don't, we will pursue every possible mechanism, including legal, to make them stop."

The two main recommendations of the Independent Healthcare Commission are:

- the hospitals and A&E closure programme needs to be halted
- local authorities should consider seeking a legal review if the programme is not halted. [See page 3 for more details](#)

You can read the full report and view our video at ...

www.lbhf.gov.uk/hospitals

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