

# Houghton Review of Worklessness: Your Comments Welcomed

DWP's stakeholders' comments are needed on a major consultation document.

[Tackling Worklessness: A review of the contribution and role of local authorities and partnerships - interim report](#)  
(Communities and Local Government website).

DWP and CLG Ministers commissioned an independent review of local partnership working to tackle worklessness. The review team, chaired by Cllr Stephen Houghton of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, visited a range of local areas throughout England with high levels of worklessness to examine how local partnerships were already working together, and to get feedback on how this could be improved. The review team published its interim report on 27 November 2008.

The interim report contains a number of radical proposals, including:

- Upper tier councils should be responsible for conducting analyses of the causes of worklessness in their local communities, as part of the Government's proposals for local authorities to undertake economic assessments.
- Building on the priority given to worklessness in Local and Multi Area Agreements, councils and partnerships who want to go further on worklessness would be able to agree Work and Skills Plans with Government, outlining how worklessness would be addressed, and gaining additional freedoms and resources in return.
- These councils would benefit from a dedicated, long-term Work and Skills Budget, which would be allocated for up to six years to help councils meet targets, agreed with ministers, to improve the local economy.
- This could include existing funding allocated to worklessness, such as Working Neighbourhoods Fund and other local resources, as well as additional money from mainstream employment programmes.
- Government should require public sector employers in deprived areas to do more to support their local communities. This includes offering apprenticeship places, advertising all vacancies with JobCentre Plus offices and encouraging all bidders for contracts and local suppliers to provide job opportunities to local people.

The report clearly has implications for local partnership working, which is why your comments are needed. These should be sent by 9 January 2009 to:

[houghtonreview@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:houghtonreview@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

Responses can also be sent to:

Tackling Worklessness Review Team  
C/O Katie Hewett  
Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
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The aim is to publish the final report in March 2009.