

EXECUTIVE – 22ND JANUARY 2014

ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY – APPROACH GOING FORWARD

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



WARDS AFFECTED – ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of progress in relation to implementation of the Anti Poverty Strategy 2009 – 2012, and underpinning action plan.

To seek support for a revised approach, to ensure an ongoing focus on the delivery of provision across all service areas, in seeking to mitigate poverty.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That members note progress in relation to the Anti Poverty Strategy 2009-2012

That members support the proposed revised approach as follows:

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- Introduction of a policy statement, aligned to the Corporate Plan 2013 – 2016, setting out HBBCs commitment and approach to mitigating poverty, to mainstream the work arising from the anti poverty strategy
- Work streams to deliver the commitments set out in the policy to be embedded in Service Improvement Plans
- An annual report to be presented to members, setting out what has been achieved, including key performance data to inform service improvement plans for the following year

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 In 2007/08 Scrutiny Commission included within its work programme, research which aimed to define income deprivation, and the geography of income deprivation within the Borough. As part of this work, CI Research Consultancy presented its findings to Scrutiny, setting out best practice in relation to developing local strategies and policies to address situations arising from income deprivation. The recommendations focused on working with partners, providing a real and meaningful voice for residents, and enhancing the work already undertaken in the Borough.
- 3.2. The proposed action, endorsed by Scrutiny Commission was to establish a small working group, who undertook consultation with a range of partners, who were keen to see a strategy developed, and an underpinning action plan for areas of development identified by the stakeholder group.

- 3.3. Subsequently in May 2009 Scrutiny endorsed the proposed Anti Poverty Strategy 2009 – 2012, which included an action plan to address the causes and effects associated with the key themes, identified by the consultation and research, which combined create poverty and deprivation within the Borough. The key themes were as follows: Income, employment, health, education/skills/training, housing and services, crime and ASB, and living environment. Periodically members have been updated on progress against the action plan.
- 3.4. Given the ongoing challenging economic climate, service areas have sought to respond appropriately to support those most affected by the economic downturn, and most recently the emerging impact of the Welfare Reform agenda. Subsequently the actions identified within the delivery plan supporting the Anti Poverty Strategy, have been incorporated within Service Improvement Plans. Furthermore, the refreshed Corporate Plan 2013 - 2016 includes a specific priority to 'reduce the impact of poverty to improve health and wellbeing'. **Appendix 1** sets out the current work streams within the Service Improvement Plans, across all service areas, to delivery on this priority (and other relevant corporate priorities), which align with the deprivation themes in the original anti poverty strategy.
- 3.5. In addition to this, some up to date analysis is being undertaken, to understand the current impact on the Borough in relation to deprivation and poverty. Data is being sourced from the most reliable data sources we have been able to identify, including the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), as well as the Housing Intelligence for the East Midlands comprehensive data sets, with this latter source enabling the authority to drill down to understand the picture at the most local level e.g. at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) - a LSOA is made up of 1000 households.
- 3.6. The intention is to extract this data in relation to the themes previously set out in the anti poverty strategy, but also to identify the most affected/deprived geographical areas within the Borough, at LSOA level, for each of these themes. Evidence to date indicates that this is starting to flag up LSOAs outside of our priority neighbourhood areas. This can then be correlated with planned work set out in the current service improvement plans, and subsequently the identification of any perceived gaps in provision. This evidence may also flag up the need for targeting of universal and/or specific service provision in particular geographic areas.
- 3.7. Alongside this, a number of work streams are progressing as detailed in Appendix 1, specifically in relation to Welfare Reform, requiring the authority to consider how it responds to, for example, the impact of those affected by housing under occupancy, Benefit Caps, and the move to Universal Credit.
- 3.8. Therefore a number of associated reports will be coming forward, for members to consider, to inform priorities, and decisions about associated resources going forward, to support our ongoing work in relation to mitigating poverty.

4. **Recommendation**

- 4.1. It is proposed, given the integration of related work into service improvement plans, that we mainstream the work arising from the anti poverty strategy, and introduce a policy statement, aligned with the refreshed Corporate Plan, which clearly sets out: our commitment, how we plan to work (including how we will ensure the ongoing engagement of all relevant partners and stakeholders), and arrangements for both establishing priorities and monitoring the impact of investment. A draft Policy statement is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 4.2. It is further proposed that there will be an annual report presented to Scrutiny and Executive members, setting out what has been achieved in relation to the Policy statement/commitment, including key performance data, to inform service improvement plans for the following year.
- 4.3. Furthermore, this approach will ensure a corporate and co-ordinated approach to tackling poverty, with the annual review, ensuring that the design and delivery of services is a central underpinning factor in service planning and decision making, prioritising activities that support those most in need.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KB)

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. That said, agreed schemes arising as a result of the outputs of this Policy may require specific budget requirements which will be reported for approval in line with financial regulations.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (LH)

None arising directly from this report

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The contents of this report relate to and support the following strategic aims:

- Creating a vibrant place to work and live
- Empowering communities
- Supporting individuals
- Providing value for money and pro-active services

8. CONSULTATION

Ongoing consultation within all Service areas has informed the need to ensure a co-ordinated corporate response to mitigate poverty

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

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Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Lack of a co-ordinated corporate response and allocation of provision to mitigate poverty within the locality	Introduction of a refreshed Policy Statement setting out the authority's commitment and delivery mechanisms to mitigate the impact of poverty	Edwina Grant

10. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The introduction of a Policy Statement and subsequent co-ordinated approach to the allocation of resources to mitigate the impact of poverty, will take into account the specific needs of those living and working in rural areas, and the allocation of provision for those most in need.

11. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Anti Poverty Strategy 2009 - 2012

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