

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Council |
| DATE | 13 th October 2022 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | Appointment of External Advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee |
| REPORT NUMBER | CUS/22/235 |
| DIRECTOR | Andy MacDonald |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Derek McGowan |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Derek McGowan |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 7 and 21 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At its meeting on 25 August 2022, the Council delegated authority to the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Governance and the Convener of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee, to determine the process for the selection and appointment of the external advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and report back to the next Council meeting to seek approval of the appointments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:-

- 2.1 Agree the following non remunerated appointments:
- a) 1 resident of Aberdeen with lived experience of poverty – Evan Adamson
 - b) Up to 2 people representing the charitable sector in Aberdeen –
 - a. Maggie Hepburn, Chief Executive of Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
 - b. Sophy Green, Chief Executive of Instant Neighbour
 - c) 1 person representing higher and further education in Aberdeen
 - a. Dr John Bone, University of Aberdeen
 - d) 1 person representing key interest groups in Aberdeen (that may be appointed for a defined period of time)
 - a. To be appointed on a cyclical basis after the first meeting to ensure the person identified has the expertise required to advise the Committee on the issues under discussion

e) 1 public health professional/practitioner who works in Aberdeen

a. Phil Mackie, Public Health consultant, NHS Grampian.

2.2 Agree the formation of a Working Group of partner agencies and lived experience to support the ongoing work of the Committee.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 1 RESIDENT OF ABERDEEN WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF POVERTY

Those experiencing poverty can experience and perceive stigma, and it was important to work with trusted local partners to identify someone with this experience, who would be confident and comfortable being an external adviser to this Committee.

The nominee for this role, Evan Adamson, helps run a foodbank in the city and is a vocal advocate for those experiencing poverty.

3.2 UP TO 2 PEOPLE REPRESENTING THE CHARITABLE SECTOR IN ABERDEEN

Given the wide range of charities involved in anti-poverty and inequality work across the city, it was felt important to ensure this was represented as effectively as possible, and advice was sought from Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations as to how to best achieve this.

Following discussion and review of the Terms of Reference, Maggie Hepburn, Chief Executive of Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations, and Sophy Green, Chief Executive of Instant Neighbour are nominated for these roles.

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations, as the Third Sector Interface for the city, is the independent voice of the third sector in Aberdeen. Maggie Hepburn will be able to support the Committee through the role of external adviser in gathering views from member organisations, and through their expertise across the sector.

Instant Neighbour are a prominent local charity supporting people on low incomes to set up home by providing access to low-cost reuse furniture, white goods and home comforts. Instant neighbour also provides access to food bank facilities and advice, and each year runs a Festive Giving Tree appeal which supports families experiencing poverty to give children and young people a happy Christmas.

Through both of these nominees, we are confident that the Committee will benefit from an excellent level of advice and experience to tackle both the issues identified in the Committee Terms of Reference, and issues that may emerge as the work of the Committee progresses.

3.3 1 PERSON REPRESENTING HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION IN ABERDEEN

Professor Pete Edwards, the Higher Education representative on the Community Planning Aberdeen Board, was contacted and requested to discuss with colleagues across the sector and identify an appropriate nominee. Following these discussions, Dr John Bone has been nominated for this role.

Dr Bone is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and a Coordinator of the Just Transitions Lab at the University of Aberdeen. His work broadly focuses on the various ways in which individuals and communities are affected by aspects of contemporary socio-economic organisation, and particularly the operation of financial, housing and labour markets, welfare and associated government policy. Dr Bone is a former Chair of the British Sociological Association and past Member of the British Academy Strategic Forum for the Social Sciences.

3.4 1 PERSON REPRESENTING KEY INTEREST GROUPS IN ABERDEEN (THAT MAY BE APPOINTED FOR A DEFINED PERIOD OF TIME)

As the Committee Terms of Reference cover both poverty and inequality stemming from poverty, this is naturally a wide ranging remit. The proposal here is to nominate a colleague from the working group proposed at 3.7 below – excluding any external adviser already nominated here - on a cyclical basis, to ensure both appropriate representation, and that topics under discussion at each committee meeting benefit from the relevant and appropriate experience.

3.5 1 PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL/PRACTITIONER WHO WORKS IN ABERDEEN

The Chief Officer for Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership was contacted requesting a nominee for this Committee. Phil Mackie was subsequently identified and has agreed to fulfil this role subject to agreement by the Council.

Phil Mackie is a Consultant in Public Health working with NHS Grampian. Before this, he was the lead consultant for Scottish Public Health Network; the national managed public health network in Scotland. A member of the initial Ministerial Drug Death Taskforce, he has also led national collaborations focusing on areas such as adverse childhood experiences, violence prevention, fuel poverty, gambling harms, and offender health.

3.6 TERM OF APPOINTMENT

It is proposed that the appointments are made for an initial period of twelve months, and reviewed on an annual basis thereafter.

3.7 FORMATION OF WORKING GROUP TO SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE

To develop the work of the Committee, Officers are proposing to establish a working group of citywide partners, to progress the items on the Business Planner and ensure the Committee aims are achieved. With a wider level of stakeholder engagement and involvement across the city, this will provide a platform to share ideas and input to committee reports to ensure that Committee have a range and balance of views. It is proposed that the external advisers to the Committee participate in this working group, supported by Council officers as appropriate. Councillors may be invited to participate in this working group as considered appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct cost implication arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

| Category | Risks | Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level | *Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions | *Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set? |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Strategic Risk | There is a risk that failing to support people experiencing poverty and inequality could lead to longer term economic harm. | The formation of this Committee, supported by appropriate external advisers allows the Council to focus on these issues. | L | Yes |
| Compliance | There is a risk of failing to comply with legal requirements such as the agreement of statutory poverty and equality reports. | The Committee Terms of Reference set out these responsibilities. | L | Yes |

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| Operational | The recommendations in this report require minimal additional resource from the Council. | | L | Yes |
| Financial | The recommendations in this report require minimal additional resource from the Council. | Any resource implications identified through this Committee will be referred to the appropriate Committee. | L | Yes |
| Reputational | There is a risk that failing to support people experiencing poverty and inequality could lead to reputational damage. | The appointment of external advisers to this Committee, along with the agreed Terms of Reference, provide the appropriate platform for consideration of poverty and inequality issues. | L | Yes |

8. OUTCOMES

| <u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u> | |
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| | Impact of Report |
| Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement | The recommendations in this report align with the Partnership agreement with regard to the mitigation of poverty and inequality. |
| <u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u> | |
| Local Outcome Improvement Plan | <p>The proposals in this paper impact on the four pillars of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan:</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>People (Children and Young People)</p> <p>People (Adults)</p> <p>Place</p> |
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| Regional and City Strategies | Children's Services Plan Regional Economic Strategy Regional Skills Strategy Local Housing Strategy Customer, Digital and Data Strategy Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy |
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|--|------------------------|
| Integrated Impact Assessment | Stage 1 IIA completed. |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not required |

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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