

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	21 June 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Formation of a Working Group
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/171
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
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TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the formation of a working group on anti-poverty and inequality issues in Aberdeen and actions identified to tackle these issues.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the output from the Anti-Poverty Workshop held on 30 May 2023 and approach taken by the working group; and
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Officer Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to liaise with the Chief Officer Data and Insights and align the Committee business planner with key Community Planning Aberdeen deliverables.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Context

- 3.1.1 Aberdeen City Council stands firm in its commitment to help people and communities affected by the cost of living crisis and alleviate suffering due to poverty where it exists across the city. The Council's Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee is clear that tackling poverty requires more than treating the short-term symptoms. Looking ahead to the future it seeks to improve the quality of life for all citizens and tackle poverty and disadvantage at its root cause.
- 3.1.2 This ambition aligns to the aspirations of Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA), the City's statutory partnership of public, private and third sector organisations working together to improve outcomes for the people and communities of Aberdeen. Led by Aberdeen City Council, the Community Planning Aberdeen Partnership works towards achieving a vision of Aberdeen as a place where all people can prosper through the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Central to the LOIP is a commitment to reduce inequalities of outcome which exist as a result of socio-economic disadvantage. The LOIP in its entirety demonstrates how partners will work together to prevent people,

families and communities falling into and suffering the consequences of poverty.

3.1.3 A report to the Operational Delivery Committee on 17 September 2019 [Child Poverty](#) (CUS/19/375) signalled the intention to close off the previous Anti-Poverty Strategy, Towards a Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers for All 2017-2020, with measures being progressed through the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

3.1.4 The LOIP was last refreshed in July 2021 against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic and the emerging cost of living crisis pushing more people into immediate and acute poverty. As a result, a new stretch outcome of 'No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026' was introduced to communicate the partnership's shared commitment to supporting the shorter term recovery of the City as well as longer term renewal. A new CPA Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group was established to oversee the achievement of the stretch outcome, now chaired by the Chief Officer Data and Insights.

3.1.5 An Anti-Poverty Workshop was held on 30 May 2023 with the external advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the CPA Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes. Organisations represented at the Workshop included:

- Aberdeen City Council
- ACVO
- Aberdeen Foyer
- CFINE
- Instant Neighbour
- NHS Grampian
- SCARF
- University of Aberdeen

3.2 Shared Outcomes

3.2.1 Workshop attendees explored the outcomes they are aiming to achieve in their respective organisations and collectively as a group. There was great commonality across the group and key outcomes included the following:

- Reducing fear
- Breaking the cycle of crisis, cash and repeat poverty
- Ensuring a sustainable approach to providing support for those that need it most
- Tackling poverty as a whole rather than breaking it down into different types of poverty (fuel, food, bed etc)
- Eliminating poverty through equity and equality of opportunity

3.3 Horizon Scanning

3.3.1 Looking ahead to the future, the group considered what factors might impact and influence a collective approach to tackling poverty. A summary of these factors is captured below.

Political and Legal	Economic and Environmental
Changes to employment law Political change General election Welfare reform Removal of emergency provision measures Community wealth building Expanding Social Security Scotland Shrinking public sector Debt levy Link to Scottish Government Policy e.g. Good food nation, right to food, anti-poverty priorities Universal credit full migration	Economic crisis Over reliance on the economy Climate change Winter Inflation Wealth/ poverty gap Reduced funding for third sector and communities Short term funding limitations Business viability Food supply Energy efficiency
Social	Technological
Breakdown in social stability Poor health Demand on NHS and social care Co-design with users / lived experience Displaced people Acceleration of targeted response which perpetuates 'acceptable' inequality Class division Education/ early intervention Wider demographic in poverty Link to other groups tackling poverty e.g. Food Poverty Action Aberdeen Food ladders approach (community development)	Artificial Intelligence Energy Digital in/exclusion Industrial change

3.4 Key Deliverables and Actions

- 3.4.1 The group reflected on the dual challenges faced; continuing to respond to people in urgent need of help and support whilst taking longer term actions to change course and re-imagine a future without poverty.
- 3.4.2 In identifying actions, the group considered this year's key anti-poverty deliverables of both the Committee and Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) and opportunity to join efforts. Aligning the Committee Business Planner with the work of CPA would ensure key areas of work around demographics and the population needs assessment, and the anti-poverty strategy and the refresh of the LOIP, as well the role of the Citizen Assembly in supporting community participation and engagement are not duplicated. The Chief Officer Early Intervention and Community Empowerment would liaise with the Chief Officer Data and Insights and align the Committee business planner with key Community Planning Aberdeen deliverables.

Aberdeen City Council Committee Business Planner	Community Planning Aberdeen
Poverty Demographics – Aug 23	Population Needs Assessment – Sep 23
Citizen’s Assemblies – Aug 23	Partner and community engagement on LOIP and Locality Plan priorities – Oct 23
Anti-Poverty Strategy – Nov 23	Final LOIP and Locality Plans – Apr 24

3.4.3 Short term actions identified by the group that would support the above processes include:

- Advisers and partners feeding into the Population Needs Assessment by gathering insights from their customers and clients using a common set of questions;
- Review previous partnership improvement activity and wider local interventions to identify those which show evidence that they can reduce poverty and make recommendations to the Committee of those which should be prioritised for scaling up of action(s) across the City;
- Connecting with the Poverty Alliance, Food Poverty Action Aberdeen and other strategic groups tackling poverty across the City to ensure a collaborative approach;
- Engaging, listening and hearing from people with lived experienced, tapping into the work being carried out by the Health Determinants Research Collaborative;
- Building in a focus on collective corporate behaviours, not just Council but all partners;
- Enquiring what the anchor organisations are doing to improve outcomes for our communities;
- Designing a plan / strategy which identifies short to medium and long term action but also creates space to think about how this would evolve in the future.

3.4.4 Ideas about longer term action relate to strategy for change and the content of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Local Outcome Improvement Plans. These ideas have been captured and will be shaped and refined further as part of the LOIP development process over the next nine months.

3.5 **Organised to Deliver**

3.5.1 Finally, the workshop considered how we might organise ourselves to ensure effective delivery of shared outcomes. The CPA Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group is a forum for partners to come together to think strategically and tactically about preventing poverty. It is proposed that the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee External Advisors are invited to join the Anti-Poverty OIG to form the working group to aid and facilitate closer collaboration that will inform and support the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee advisors in their role with the Council, and the wider activity of the Community Planning Partnership. In addition, the wider community will be invited to participate on

key themes to ensure further participation and lived experience in the working group.

3.5.2 Next steps:

The following actions are the next steps:

- Further meetings of the working group to develop the action plan and input to committee business planner;
- Aligning action plan timetable with CPA in line with committee business planner as outlined in the recommendation;

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation in 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	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
	Impact of Report

Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	The approach in this paper will support the partnership aim 'Our partnership will do all we can to help people hit by the cost of living crisis, alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life for our citizens'
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The approach described in this paper will support stretch outcome 1: No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Regional and City Strategies	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Formation of a Working Group to support the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee CUS/23/075

11. APPENDIX

11.1 none

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