

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the first annual effectiveness report for the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee. The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 The Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Terms of Reference were considered as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review. As a new Committee, no changes were made as part of that piece of work. The use of the Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored over the next year to identify if any changes require to be made in 2024.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Committee welcomes the expertise and input from our External Advisers, informing the development of committee business as well as the formation of a working group to support the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. The working group brings together the external advisers and the members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group to ensure a joined up approach to tackling poverty.
- 1.5 The External Advisers have supported the Committee since it was established in November 2022 and report the following:
 - It has been helpful participating in the discussions on papers presented at Committee, having seen them in advance to allow due consideration;
 - The opportunity to highlight issues and help shape future Committee business through the external advisers reports and working group is welcomed; and
 - The development of clearer links with the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group is a welcome development.
- 1.6 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 and the University of Aberdeen.

- 1.7 The Committee has received six-monthly reports for assurance on the Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions.
- 1.8 A key piece of work this year was progression on Citizens' Assemblies. The Committee has received three reports on this subject, with the most recent resolution to approve the approach to deliver an assembly on poverty and gender inequality in Aberdeen. A procurement exercise will now be undertaken in line with the Council's Procurement Regulations, to secure the services of two organisations to support the delivery of the process.
- 1.9 Committee Members have been getting out to visit our Communities and the organisations supporting them, with quarterly visits organised. So far we have been to SHMU, CFINE and Aberdeen Foyer, with further visits planned. The visits have been extremely helpful for the Committee in learning about the work of organisations across the city, hearing at first hand the issues and difficulties faced by people experiencing poverty, as well as from staff and volunteers on the challenges of supporting vulnerable people. This builds on input to the Committee from our external advisers. The commitment of the organisations in organising and hosting the visits is very much appreciated.
- 1.10 In addition, the reports to committee following the visits have been welcomed as an opportunity for organisations to further share information about their work and for committee to reflect on the learning.
- 1.11 I would like to thank Members – both Elected and External - and officers for their contributions during the first year of the Committee and look forward to working with them, and my Vice Convener, Councillor Desmond Bouse, next year.



Councillor Christian Allard
Convener – Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To monitor and determine the Council's contribution to alleviating and mitigating all forms of poverty and inequality in the city.

The Committee will develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

1. The Committee will, in respect of poverty and inequality issues in the city:

- 1.1 Consider the impact of poverty on the city as a whole and targeted population levels, including on key groups such as children, minority ethnic communities and those of pensionable age who are known to be particularly disadvantaged by poverty;
- 1.2 Consider the evidence from Citizen's Assemblies on poverty and inequality matters;
- 1.3 Seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty and inequality;
- 1.4 Consider the effect of In-work Poverty and the Living Wage, including by receiving reports on Living Wage accreditation rates;
- 1.5 Consider evidence of "what's worked" in combating poverty and inequality;
- 1.6 Consider the impact of ongoing Welfare Reform measures, including by receiving reports on benefit access and uptake;
- 1.7 Consider the impact of poverty on Employability and Youth Employment, including by receiving reports on employment rates and positive destinations;
- 1.8 Consider the impact of Food Insecurity and Fuel Poverty, including by receiving reports on community food provision and energy cost impacts;
- 1.9 Consider the impact of stigma and discrimination on those experiencing poverty;
- 1.10 Consider the impact of poverty on the health and wellbeing of those experiencing it;
- 1.11 Monitor the progress of research relevant to poverty and inequality, including in relation to health determinants;
- 1.12 Consider matters relating to the provision of Credit Unions, fair and affordable banking and advice services;
- 1.13 Examine the nature of institutional and systemic discrimination in Aberdeen, and consider the steps required to eradicate such discrimination;
- 1.14 Monitor the performance of Council-funded community programmes and projects which seek to address poverty or inequality.

2. The Committee will:

- 2.1 agree the submission of Child Poverty Action Plans and Reports to the Scottish Government;
- 2.2 agree the submission of the Council's Equalities Mainstreaming Outcomes Reports to the Scottish Government; and
- 2.3 monitor the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions through receipt of an annual report.

- 3.1 In undertaking the aspects at 1 and 2, the Committee will ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.
- 3.2 The Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee.

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

Emphasising the close links with Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Group, the Committee has appointed advisers who are not members of the Council. These external advisers were appointed by the Council at its statutory meeting as follows:

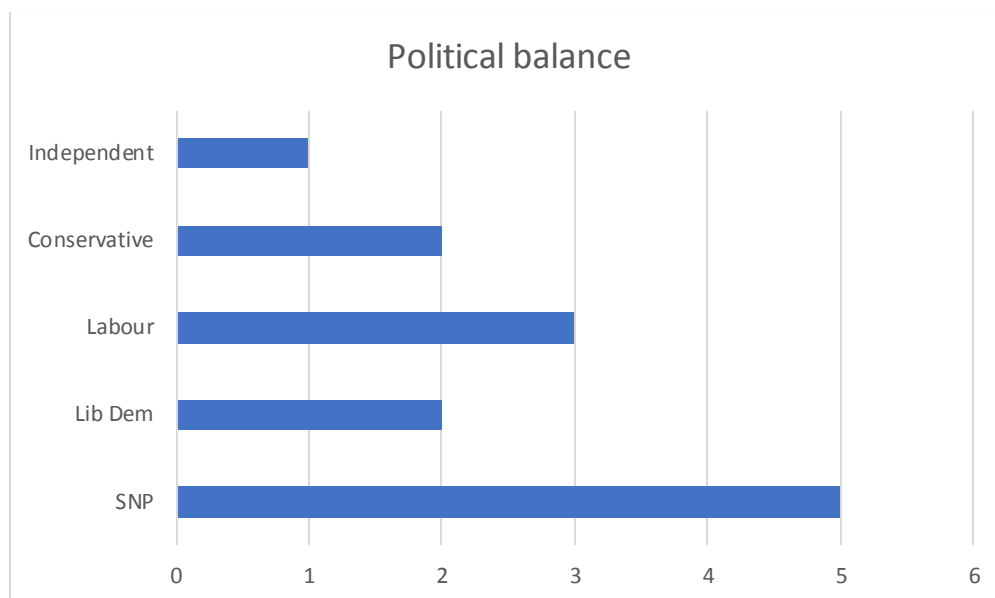
- 1 resident of Aberdeen with lived experience of poverty;
- Up to 2 people representing the charitable sector of Reference in Aberdeen;
- 1 person representing higher and further education in Aberdeen;
- 1 person representing key interest groups in Aberdeen (that may be appointed for a defined period of time); and
- 1 public health professional/practitioner who works in Aberdeen.

Executive Leads: Director of Customer Services and Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



3.3 The Committee also has five External Members who attend the meeting. The Advisers can ask questions and participate in any debate, but do not have the ability to move or second motions or amendments, nor to vote. These Members are:-

Dr John Bone	University of Aberdeen
Sophy Green	Instant Neighbour
Maggie Hepburn	ACVO
Phil Mackie	Public Health, NHS Grampian
Evan Adamson (until July 2023)	Instant Neighbour
Vacancy from July 2023	

4. Membership Changes

4.1 Councillor McLeod was a member of the Committee until the January 2023 meeting, after which time Councillor Kuszniir joined. Following the change of committee places as a result of the May 2023 by-election, Councillor Houghton left and Councillor Lawrence became a member of the Committee from the May 2023 meeting. Following the meeting of Council in August 2023, Councillors Bonsell and Lawrence stepped down from the Committee and Councillors Crockett and Tissera joined.

5. Member Attendance

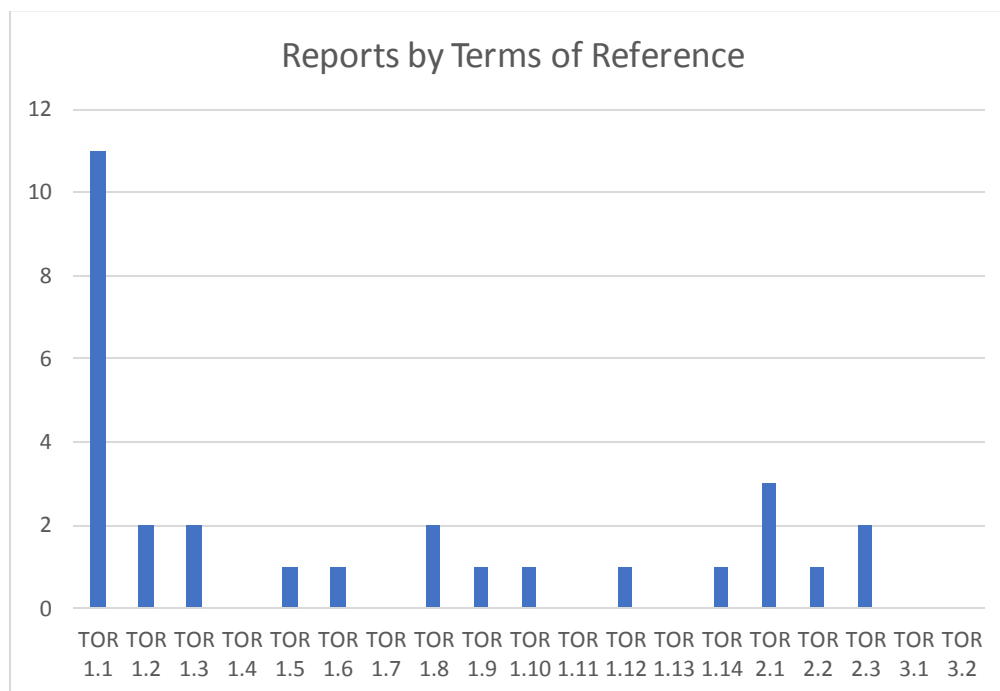
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Christian Allard	6	6	
Councillor Desmond Bouse	6	5	Councillor Steve Delaney
Councillor Jennifer Bonsell	5	4	Councillor M. Tauqeer Malik
Councillor Richard Brooks	6	6	
Councillor Donna Clark	6	6	
Councillor Barney Crockett	1	0	Councillor Graeme Lawrence
Councillor Derek Davidson	6	6	
Councillor Gordon Graham	6	5	Councillor Jennifer Bonsell
Councillor Martin Greig	6	6	
Councillor Ryan Houghton	3	2	Councillor Mrs Stewart
Councillor Michael Hutchison	6	5	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Michael Kuszniir	4	3	Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Graeme Lawrence	2	1	Councillor Deena Tissera
Councillor Jessica Mennie	6	5	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Ken McLeod	2	0	Councillor Michael Kuszniir Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Deena Tissera	1	0	Councillor Kate Blake
Councillor Simon Watson	6	5	Councillor Kate Blake

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had six meetings and considered a total of 24 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under the majority of the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period.

6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review, and consideration will be given to whether those Terms Of Reference which have not been used in reports require to be amended

6.2.4 The majority of reports fell under Terms of Reference 1.1 - Consider the impact of poverty on the city as a whole and targeted population levels, including on key groups such as children, minority ethnic communities and those of pensionable age who are known to be particularly disadvantaged by poverty - which indicates that the Committee is fulfilling its purpose of monitoring and determining the Council's

contribution to alleviating and mitigating all forms of poverty and inequality in the city.

- 6.2.5 Other Terms Of Reference that featured regularly were consistent with the purpose of the committee, namely: 1.2 - Consider the evidence from Citizen's Assemblies on poverty and inequality matters; 1.3 - Seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty and inequality and those with knowledge or expertise in relation to these issues; and 1.8 - Consider the impact of Food Insecurity and Fuel Poverty, including by receiving reports on community food provision and energy cost impacts.
- 6.2.6 Reports referring to Terms Of Reference 2.1 and 2.3 were also reported to the Committee. Terms Of Reference 2.1 states that the Committee will approve for publication the Local Child Poverty Action Reports in terms of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and Child Poverty Action Plans. These have been agreed by the Committee. Child Poverty has now been integrated into the Children's Services Plan, as reported to the Education and Children's Services Committee in March 2023. Going forward, annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports will be presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee and the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee, thereafter for approval by the Community Planning Management Board. Statutory reporting to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee will therefore align with this reporting cycle. TOR 2.3 relates to the monitoring of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions through receipt of an annual report. The Committee has received two 6-monthly update reports in this regard.
- 6.2.7 Terms Of Reference 1.4, 1.7, 1.11 and 1.13 were not explicitly identified in reports throughout the year, however their topics were covered in other reports and through Service Updates. Terms Of Reference 1.4 relates to reports on in-work poverty and the Living Wage, Terms Of Reference 1.7 relates to employment rates and positive destinations. Terms Of Reference 1.11 refers to monitoring research relevant to poverty and inequality and Terms Of Reference 1.13 is examining institutional and systemic discrimination in the city.
- 6.2.8 In addition, there were no reports under Terms Of Reference 3.1 or 3.2. Terms Of Reference 3.1 relates to the Committee, in undertaking its remit, ensuring that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards. The majority of reports to the Committee could be argued to fall under this Terms Of Reference, however more specific Terms Of Reference relating to poverty and inequality were selected as the main Terms Of Reference. Terms Of Reference 3.2 states that the Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee. This has not arisen during the reporting period.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0
Exempt Reports	0	0
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	0	0
Number of reports approved unanimously	21	87.5%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	1 report 13 Service Updates	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	0
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	1	4%

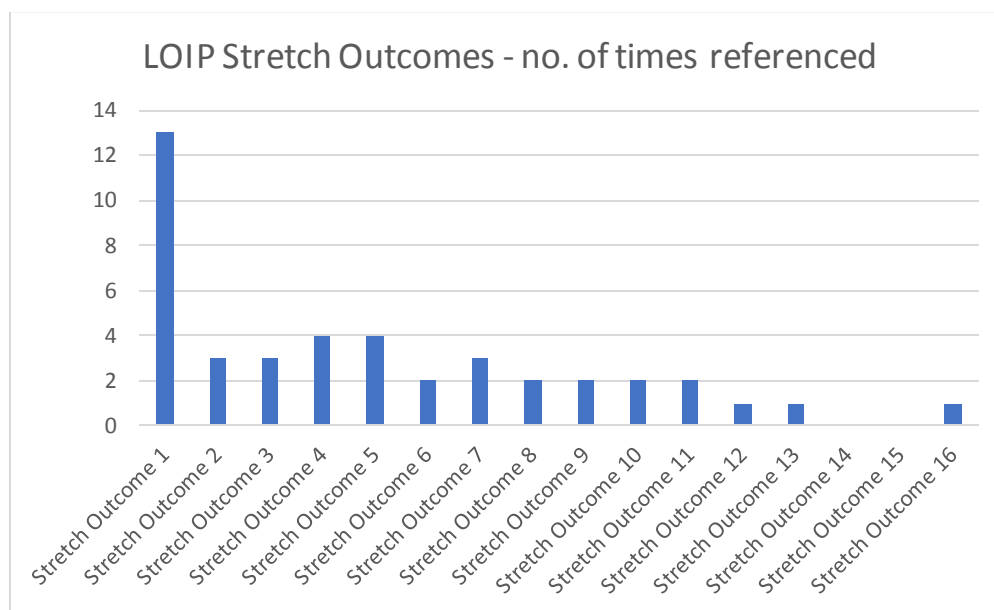
7.2 The additional report requested was regarding issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services.

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	0
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	0
Number of deputations heard	N/A
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The chart below details of the 24 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, the majority of reports have addressed Stretch Outcome 1 (No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026) which supports the purpose and remit of the Committee. There is however a wide spread across the other stretch outcomes, and as would be expected, most reports also have had a connection with stretch outcomes 4, 5 and 7, which relate to (i) 95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026; (ii) 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026; and (iii) 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026 – and more recently, stretch outcome 16 - 100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026 with a report on the Citizens' Assembly.

As can be seen from the chart below, reports to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee had links to most of the stretch outcomes, with the exception of 14 and 15.



8.2 Stretch outcome 14 relates to increasing sustainable travel and stretch outcome 15 relates to addressing the nature crisis, therefore it is unlikely that there would be reports considered at the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee which have links to those stretch outcomes.

9. Training and Development

9.1 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 Community Planning Aberdeen 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

Workshop attendees explored the outcomes that they were 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

Looking ahead to the future, the group considered what factors might impact and influence a collective approach to tackling poverty.

9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

10.1 No declarations of interest and 18 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

11.1 During the reporting period, the Service has engaged in a wide variety of engagement and consultation. The following bullet points list some, but not all, of the engagement undertaken to give a flavour of the work throughout the year.

- Visit to SHMU
- Visit to CFINE
- Visit to Aberdeen Foyer
- Anti Poverty Workshop: External Advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group met to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes.
- Challenge Poverty Week event at Aberdeen Music Hall: Where three films made by SHMU, Abernecessities and Cyrenians were screened highlighting the lived experience of individuals and communities in Aberdeen, with input from CFINE on Food Poverty Action Aberdeen, and ACVO around some key policy issues.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Vice Convener Councillor Desmond Bouse and Convener Councillor Christian Allard meet Aberdeen Foyer CEO Leona McDermid.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Convener Councillor Christian Allard, Vice Convener Councillor Desmond Bouse and Aberdeen Foyer CEO Leona McDermid chat with a Foyer Service User.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

On 8 March 2023, the Anti Poverty Committee visited CFINE as part of their programme of visits to key organisations.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee – Commentary

- 12.1 Officers have presented a wide range of reports to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee over the year, highlighting the very broad range of work to tackle poverty undertaken by services across the Council, including education, housing and homelessness, employability through City Growth and the Financial Inclusion Team. In addition, the Scottish Welfare Fund managed by the Revenues and Benefits Team provides key support in tackling poverty.
- 12.2 It has been particularly pleasing to see how areas of work, such as Tackling infant food insecurity work to address family and child poverty remains a key priority with Dr Flora Douglas presenting to respond to questions from Members. This is thought to be a very positive step.
- 12.3 Officers continue to respond to feedback from Members of Committee to ensure that reports presented provide information and analysis in a transparent and accessible format. Officers continue to appreciate both the scrutiny and high level of interest in our work across the city.
- 12.4 A key piece of work presented to Committee this year was the Child Poverty Action Report, a statutory requirement to report on local child poverty work. The Child Poverty Action Plan has been integrated in the Children’s Services Plan, ensuring effective integrated delivery.
- 12.5 Members have also heard about the outcomes delivered in supporting people through the cost of living which included further support through the Scottish Welfare Fund, support for food procurement to ensure supplies of emergency food, further development of food pantry membership and support with increasing energy costs through the provision of fuel vouchers. In addition, early work on exploring cash first approaches has been highlighted to committee.
- 12.6 Given the nature of the Committee business will often be of interest to the public, it is vital that reports are open and transparent and I am pleased to note that all business this year was considered in public session, with no exempt reports presented.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 Although there were no changes to the Anti Poverty And Inequality Committee Terms of Reference in 2023, in accordance with the usual practice of an annual review of the Scheme of Governance, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed and officers will reflect on whether any areas require further refinement moving forward to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Committee.
- 13.2 Aside from the regular annual reports and performance reports received for assurance, a selection of the business for the next year is listed below:-
- Population Needs Assessment

- Further reports from the External Advisers
- Issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026