



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9 JUNE 2014**

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

**SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – POVERTY IN THE TOWN**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake a review regarding Poverty in the Town.
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Elizabeth Gowen (Chair); Councillor Brian Sargeant (Deputy Chair); Councillors Brendan Glynane, Christopher Malpas, Lee Mason, Beverley Mennell and Dennis Meredith.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Panel elected Councillor Brian Sargeant as Deputy Chair of Panel.
- 1.3 At the first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee's approval.

**2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required objectives and outcomes should be:

**Objectives**

“To review poverty in the town to ascertain whether it is a serious issue:

Is it growing and more generally what are the trends (including migration)  
What can public services do in this time of austerity?  
What can other groups/individuals do to help?  
What the impact is, if any, is there on the economy, crime, health and education”

## **Outcomes Required**

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to address the causes and mitigate the impact of poverty in Northampton
- 2.2 The Panel agreed that a local academic and the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, Northamptonshire County Council, be approached suggesting that they are co-opted to this Scrutiny Review.
- 2.3 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

May 2014 to March 2015

- 12 May 2014 - Scoping meeting
  - 23 July 2014 - Evidence gathering
  - 11 September 2014 - Evidence gathering
  - 19 November 2014 - Evidence gathering
  - 8 January 2015 - Evidence gathering
  - 12 February 2015 - Evidence gathering
  - 11 March 2015 - Approval final report
- 2.4 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, if required.
- 2.5 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00 pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.
- 2.6 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol, the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

## **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 2 – Poverty in the Town, as attached at Appendix A.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Elizabeth Gowen, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Poverty in the Town

13 May 2014