



Appendix A

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - POVERTY IN THE TOWN

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To review poverty in the town to ascertain whether it is a serious issue:
 - Whether it growing and more generally what are the trends (including migration)
 - What are the causes of poverty locally?
 - 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

2. 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

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Site visits (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Presentation to set the scene: To identify the prevalence of the problem locally
 - Relevant national background research papers, such as poverty and welfare strategies
 - Relevant findings from the Scrutiny Review: Impact of the Welfare Reform Act
 - Relevant Legislation
 - Relevant data, including relevant data such as payroll information, poverty indicators, activity costs, employment trends, demographics (national and local)
- Best practice and successful initiatives in Northampton and comparable Local Authorities
- Witness Evidence:
 - Internal**
 - Cabinet Member for Housing, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
 - Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
 - Head of Revenues and Benefits, LGSS
 - Chair, Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
 - Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
 - External**
 - Community Law
 - Northampton and District Citizens Advice Bureau
 - Living Wage Foundation
 - Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 - Community and Voluntary Sector
 - Northampton Chamber of Commerce
 - Public Health
 - Education Services, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
 - Children's Services, NCC
 - Child Poverty Action Group
 - Church Action on Poverty
 - Inter Faith Forum
 - Community Groups such as Blackthorn Good Neighbours
 - An academic who has undertaken research into poverty locally

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
 - Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

A local academic and the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, Northamptonshire County Council, to be approached to be co-opted to this review

7 Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the review

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

May 2014 – March 2015

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| • 12 May 2014 | - Scoping meeting |
| • 23 July | - Evidence gathering |
| • 11 September | - Evidence gathering |
| • 19 November | - Evidence gathering |
| • 8 January 2015 | - Evidence gathering |
| • 12 February | - Evidence gathering |
| • 11 March | - Approval final report |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer David Kennedy, Chief Executive

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

David Kennedy, Chief Executive, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2015. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2015/January 2016)