



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

8 SEPTEMBER 2014

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - POVERTY IN THE TOWN

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the first evidence gathering meeting of the Scrutiny Panel has taken place.

2 UPDATE

2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 23 July 2014, Councillors received an informative presentation that set the scene, identifying the prevalence of the problem locally. Research papers and reports in respect of poverty were received.

2.2 The Community Impact Assessment (CIA) for this review was approved and has been published on the Overview and Scrutiny [WebPage](#).

2.3 An amalgamation of the definition of poverty devised by Professor Peter Townsend in his research paper "Poverty in the UK (1979)" and the definition of severe poverty defined by Family Action provided the base for the Scrutiny Panel's definition. The Scrutiny Panel agreed that the definition of poverty that it will use for its review is:

- Have nothing set aside for emergencies
- Cannot replace broken goods or furniture
- Can't afford their children's school uniforms, or the cost of school trips
- Have no spare money for holidays, hobbies or leisure activities
- Can't afford to keep their homes warm
- Can't afford to participate in social activities and customs of their community

2.4 County Councillor Winston Strachan, Chair, Environment, Development and Transport Scrutiny Committee, Northamptonshire County Council, has been co-opted to the Scrutiny Panel.

- 2.5 Further evidence gathering meetings of the Scrutiny Panel are scheduled. The next meeting will be held on 11 September 2014.
- 2.6 It is envisaged that the review will conclude in March 2015; with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 23 March 2015.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.

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24 July 2014