



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 January 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - POVERTY IN THE TOWN

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, two further evidence gathering meetings of the Scrutiny Panel have taken place.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 24 November 2014 the Scrutiny Panel received a response to its core questions from a variety of key expert advisors:

- Cabinet Member for Housing, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
- Head of Revenues and Benefits, Local Government Shared Services (LGSS)
- Chair, Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

- 2.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel was revised:

Councillor Elizabeth Gowen (Chair), Councillor Brian Sargeant (Deputy Chair), Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Lee Mason, Councillor Beverley Mennell, Christopher Malpas, Dennis Meredith and County Councillor Winston Strachan, co-optee.

- 2.4 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 8 January 2015, the Scrutiny Panel received further information from key expert advisors:

- Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
- Community Law
- Community and Voluntary Sector via Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire

Central and East Northamptonshire Citizens' Advice Bureau will provide evidence to the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on 12 February 2015.

- 2.5 At this meeting, the Scrutiny Panel also received a research paper detailing best practice initiatives.

- 2.6 An evidence gathering meeting is scheduled for 12 February 2015; key expert advisors are scheduled to provide evidence to this meeting. Further expert advisors to inform this Scrutiny review were identified by the Scrutiny Panel:- financial organisation (Nationwide Building Society) and the Northampton Pensioners' Forum. Both can provide evidence to the February meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

2.7 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.

3.2 That the revised membership of the Scrutiny Panel is approved.

3.3. That expected evidence from additional expert advisors, Nationwide Building Society and the Northampton Pensioners' Forum, to this Scrutiny review is noted.