

**Report to:** **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Date:** 16 March 2023

**Executive Member / Reporting Officer:** Councillor Eleanor Wills – Executive Member for Population Health and Wellbeing  
Debbie Watson – Director of Population Health

**Subject:** **BUILDING RESILIENCE: TACKLING POVERTY IN TAMESIDE**

**Report Summary:** This report provides an update on progress towards the development of a system-wide strategy to tackle poverty in Tameside.

**Recommendations:** The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to agree the Strategy and sign the Charter to commit to delivering on the ambitions set out in the Strategy.

**Corporate Plan:** The strategy cuts across all eight priorities of the Corporate Plan.

**Policy Implications:** Development of this strategy is in line with and in response to emerging national and regional policy initiatives on reducing inequality and addressing poverty. The recommendations within will have policy implications for partners as they are implemented.

**Financial Implications:** There are no direct financial implications arising from this update report on the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy. However, there are numerous and complex financial implications for the Council that arise as a result of Poverty in the borough, and the implementation of the recommendations within the Anti-Poverty Strategy are likely to have some direct financial implications.

**(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)**

The financial implications of the recommendations in the Anti-Poverty Strategy will need to be considered separately as recommendations are implemented, taking account both of the direct financial implications of recommendations and, where possible, considering the complex indirect financial implications of poverty (including areas such as demand for services and income collection).

**Legal Implications:** As set out in the report, work is ongoing to develop the strategy. Consultation has been undertaken to assist the Council in forming this strategy. The feedback from the consultation has been carefully considered as part of the finalisation of the strategy.

**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

**Risk Management:** No additional risks identified as a result of this paper or strategy.

**Background Information:** The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Simon Brunet, Head of Policy and Performance, Tameside Council.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In recent years the rise of poverty, exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, has emerged as a major policy issue. The current cost of living crisis has been significantly worsened by a number of longer-term structural weaknesses in the UK, including low wages, low productivity and high inequality relative to other major economies.
- 1.2 All partners recognise the severity of the current crisis and are working hard to support residents and gain a deeper understanding of poverty through cooperation with groups such as the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission.
- 1.3 Following the development of a Poverty Needs Assessment, which sits as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, this Board agreed to support the development of a system-wide strategy to address both the short-term and long-term issues that drive poverty in Tameside and at the last meeting agreed the draft recommendations to go for a final round of consultation.
- 1.4 The final draft of the new strategy – *'Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty in Tameside'* – is attached at **Appendix 1** and the Needs Assessment that informed it is available here [Poverty-Needs-Assessment-Final.pdf \(tameside.gov.uk\)](#)

## 2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 At the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting a paper on the draft recommendations went into detail about the depth of consultation and research undertaken to deliver the Needs Assessment and Strategy.
- 2.2 Since then a further round of Consultation was undertaken on the draft recommendations. Following comments from the likes of Greater Manchester Poverty Action, Citizens Advice Bureau, Action Together and members of the public some further recommendations were added.

## 3. GREATER MANCHESTER POVERTY ACTION REPORT ON ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIES

- 3.1 On 22 February 2023, Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) published their report *'Local anti-poverty strategies – Good practice and effective approaches'*. The report is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2 GMPA make twelve advisory recommendations for those areas embarking on the development of an anti-poverty strategy.
- 3.3 Current work puts Tameside in a strong position against GMPA's recommendations. Examples of work that meet the recommendations include:
  - Poverty Needs Assessment.
  - Programme of engagement and lived experience listening.
  - Poverty Truth Commission.
  - Adoption of the socio-economic duty in 2022.
  - Partnership approach through the Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - Clear leadership with a named Executive Member (Cllr Wills).
  - Development of a detailed and tracked action plan (in development now).
  - Poverty dashboard (in development now building on the needs assessment).
  - Pilot and implementation of Money Advice Referral Tool.

#### **4. CHARTER**

- 4.1 One of the recommendations (Report at **Appendix 3**) that came out of the Poverty Truth Commission was for the development of a 'Poverty Charter'. We propose that members of the Health and Wellbeing Board sign and agree this Charter to underline our commitment to tackling poverty in Tameside through the delivery of this Strategy.

#### **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 We have started work on developing an Action Plan to deliver the ambitions set out in the Strategy over which the Health and Wellbeing Board will have oversight. As discussed previously, delivery of this Plan will be undertaken by a sub-group reporting to the Board.
- 5.2 We have also begun work on a dashboard, which will enable us to monitor both the levels and impact of poverty in the Borough but also progress towards delivering some of the Strategy's objectives.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 As set out on the front of the report.