

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	CABINET
DATE:	18 APRIL 2018
SUBJECT:	THE BURY PARTNERSHIP ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY 2018 - 2021
REPORT FROM:	COUNCILLOR JUDITH KELLY – CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND REGULATORY SERVICES
CONTACT OFFICER:	JACKIE SUMMERSCALES PRINCIPAL STRATEGY OFFICER, CORPORATE POLICY
TYPE OF DECISION:	<i>CABINET</i> (KEY DECISION)
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	[This paper is within the public domain]
SUMMARY:	The Bury Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 - 2021 sets the framework for the refresh of our previous Poverty Strategy which was adopted in 2014. It seeks to tackle inequality through targeted strategies of support to build resilience, empower local people and reduce demand on services. It will be delivered by an accompanying partnership action plan, which consolidates the skills and resources of Council departments, partner organisations and various external agencies to help achieve our objectives.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Option 1 (recommended)</p> <p>Adopt the Bury Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 – 2021 and authorise officers and partners to implement the delivery plan and take forward the actions in the Strategy.</p> <p>Option 2 (not recommended)</p> <p>Do not support the Bury Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 - 2021 and related aspects.</p>

	Option 1 is the preferred option because tackling inequality requires a multi-agency response. The Strategy is a partnership document which sets out a clear direction of travel and is closely aligned to the Council's ambitions to support vulnerable residents.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	This strategy will be delivered utilising existing resources, and additional resources (£200,000) identified in the 2018/19 budget to "support homelessness prevention, and other welfare/hardship relief initiatives".
Health and Safety	There are no known health and safety implications.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	Successful implementation of this Strategy could help mitigate future demands upon Council services.
Equality/Diversity implications:	<p>Yes No (see paragraph below)</p> <p>To be considered. The Strategy provides a framework to prevent people from falling into poverty as well as supporting those who are already struggling. Therefore, this Strategy will have an overall positive effect across all equality strands.</p>
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes.
Wards Affected:	All.
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview & Scrutiny

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
12.03.18	22.01.18		
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
	18.04.18		

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Over the past few decades Bury has undergone significant regeneration. The Town Centre is thriving and there are superb travel links, popular schools and colleges, excellent employment opportunities and outstanding leisure, sport and recreational facilities. However, not all of Bury's residents are sharing the benefits. There are severe pockets of deprivation across the Borough.

2.0 REVIEW

- 2.1 A report on life chances and subsequent research demonstrated the significant impact that poverty has on communities in the Borough:

- 7,000 children live in poverty.
- 12 areas are within the 10% most deprived in the country – 11,000 people live in these areas.
- The difference in life expectancy between males and females living in deprived areas compared to non-deprived areas is 9.6 and 7.8 years respectively.
- Fuel poverty has increased from 8,047 households in 2013/14 to 8,938 in 2015/16.
- Only 69% of children are achieving a good level of development (GM average 71%).
- The number of households accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need is increasing from 154 in 2015/16 to 257 in Dec 2017.
- Approximately 10,200 households are classed as workless and 190 young people aged 16 to 17 are classified as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- Job density is low at 0.65% per resident, compared to 0.78% (GM average).
- 72% of employers did not recruit any education leavers in 2016/17.

The cost of poverty to society is estimated at around £78 billion each year in the UK (in addition to means tested benefits). This includes demands on health and social care services, education, crime and housing.

3.0 A STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

- 3.1 This Strategy aims to tackle poverty and inequality by focussing partnership activity around three key priorities:

- *Early Intervention and Prevention*
- *Financial Inclusion and Resilience*
- *Developing Skills and Increasing Employability*

4.0 GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 A partnership action plan has been developed with a range of practical activities aligned to each priority. All activities will be assigned to named leads with clear outcomes and targets.
- 4.2 Work to develop and implement the Strategy will be overseen by the Welfare Reform Board chaired by the Executive Member for Corporate Affairs and

Regulatory Services. Progress will be reported to the Health & Wellbeing Board via exception from the Welfare Reform Board.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1** The Strategy has been refreshed in consultation and discussion with partners, members, service providers including children and young people services, economic development, public health, housing and voluntary and community representatives including members of the Welfare Reform Board. The review and Strategy have been regular agenda items at the Executive Member for Corporate Affairs and Regulatory Services portfolio meetings.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The findings from the review indicate that early intervention is crucial. We must create innovative pathways out of poverty that support individuals in the Borough and help them to help themselves and their children break the cycle of poverty. The opportunities/life chances individuals experience throughout their lives will determine their future.
- 6.2** This Strategy supports the Council's ambition for a prosperous, sustainable Borough by working towards alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. It sets out a robust framework for real change - tackling issues at an early stage to divert individuals and families away from poverty and high cost statutory interventions.
- 6.3** It is recommended that Cabinet:

Adopt the Bury Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018 – 2021 and authorise officers and partners to implement the delivery plan and take forward the actions in the Strategy.

List of Background Papers:-

Bury Commission on Life Chances 2017.
Bury Poverty Strategy 2014.
Public Health Annual Report 2015/16.
ONS/Bury JSNA.

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