

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 25 September 2023
Report for: Approval
Report of: Executive Member for Housing and Advice

Report Title

Trafford Council Poverty Strategy 2023-25

Summary

To provide a summary of the work completed through the Poverty Truth Commission and how this has been embedded into the Poverty Strategy 2023-25.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Executive

1. Note the Poverty Strategy refresh which embeds the Poverty Truth Commission recommendations.
2. Note that a further update will be provided on the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Implications

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Poverty Strategy supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan and Strategic Priorities.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The Poverty Strategy is aligned to the GM policy and strategy.
Financial	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
Equality/Diversity Implications	The aim of the Strategy is to meet our equalities duty.
Sustainability Implications	There is nothing in the report that would undermine our sustainability plans.
Carbon Reduction	The Poverty Strategy aims to improve life opportunities which can assist in supporting carbon reduction.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	No direct impact.
Risk Management Implications	No direct impact.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Health and wellbeing will be improved through the implementation of this Strategy through improved access to services and opportunities.
Health and Safety Implications	No direct impact

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Poverty Strategy 2022-25 was approved by Executive last year, 2022, with an understanding that a revised version would be developed in 2023 upon completion of Trafford's Poverty Truth Commission.
- 1.2 The Strategic Partnerships and Policy Team have been working in partnership on the development of a Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25, building on the Trafford Poverty Truth Commission's Recommendations. The refresh builds on the 2022-25 strategy that currently exists and a previous one-year strategy. All of these strategies have been co-produced with public services, VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise) organisations across the borough and council teams.
- 1.3 The Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25 sets out our bold vision for Trafford and our guiding principles for alleviating the effects of poverty for individuals and families. It seeks to complement and support the delivery of other strategies with colleagues from across the organisation and from partner organisations being consulted and involved in its development. The Executive Member for Housing & Advice has contributed and inputted to the 2023-25 Strategy.

- 1.4 The strategy recognises and complements the existing strategies and programmes of work across Trafford and Greater Manchester, including Greater Manchester Poverty Action, and is key to the delivery of Trafford's Corporate Plan and the priority 'Supporting People out of Poverty.'
- 1.5 The Poverty Strategy five themes were identified in workshops in 2022 involving members of Trafford's Poverty Action Group. This group brings together public, VCFSE and private partners across Trafford all working together to alleviate and end poverty.
- 1.6 It was agreed that the work and research undertaken to develop the 2022-25 version would not be removed, but instead the actions from the Poverty Truth Commission, updated data and insights and a stronger focus on lived experience would be embedded into the previous work to form the refreshed 2023-25 Strategy.
- 1.7 The delivery and evaluation of the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25 will be overseen by the Trafford Poverty Action Group.

2. TRAFFORD POVERTY STRATEGY 2023-25

- 2.1 The development of the 2023-25 Poverty Strategy for Trafford took place following the publication of Trafford Poverty Truth Commission's end of commission report, published in March 2023.
- 2.2 Whilst recognising the work which had been done to develop the 2022-25 Strategy last year, it was clear that the voice of residents with lived experience of poverty was vital to include in the refreshed strategy and recommendations.
- 2.3 The Council, alongside L&Q (formerly Trafford Housing Trust), commissioned Stretford Public Hall to facilitate and run the Poverty Truth Commission from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023. The Commission was formed of Community Commissioners from Trafford with lived experience of poverty and Civic Commissioners who held leadership roles in public, private and VCFSE organisations across the borough.
- 2.4 Throughout the yearlong project the Commissioners worked together to form relationships, explore the causes of poverty and its effects, and to develop their ideas for how we can come together as a community in Trafford to tackle poverty. These ideas culminated in their [end of commission report](#).
- 2.5 This 2023-25 Poverty Strategy has therefore incorporated the recommendations and findings of the Poverty Truth Commission within the existing thematic areas and explores further detail on the importance of listening to residents who have real lived experience of poverty.
- 2.6 The Poverty Action Group has worked and collaborated with the Poverty Truth Commission, including Civic and Community Commissioners, as well as other partners and VCFSE to ensure that the recommendations are developed and embedded. Many engagement sessions have taken place

during the summer of 2023 to ensure partners and the voice of lived experience of poverty has contributed to the strategy and to ensure commitment to deliver the necessary action plan longer term.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 Trafford Poverty Action Group will:

3.1.1 Meet at the end of September to consolidate the existing work and current activity aligned to the Poverty Truth Commission Recommendations so that an updated collaborative Action Plan is agreed and sits alongside this Strategy.

3.1.2 Refresh the Terms of Reference of the Group, to form Taskforce Groups, each focussing on delivery of thematic areas of actions over the next two years.

In collaborating with partners to develop this plan it ensures that alleviating and ending poverty in Trafford continues to be everyone's business.

3.2 Trafford Policy team will continue engagement with teams, VCFSE and partners across the council to ensure continual alignment in work and action plan.

4. OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 The only other alternative is to do nothing and not adopt a long-term Poverty Strategy. However, it is important that the Council's aims and objectives to tackle poverty across the borough are delivered to support the Council's delivery of the corporate plan and strategic priorities.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Trafford Poverty Strategy 2022-2023 was co-produced with partners and consulted a range of organisations across VCFSE, housing, health, advisory services and wider.

5.2 The 2023-2025 strategy has evolved from the initial strategy and consultation and now incorporates the Poverty Truth Commission recommendations which were led by over 25 Community and Civic Commissioners from key strategic organisations. It has also been developed and fed into by partners across Trafford Poverty Action Group to shape and inform the future priorities.

5.3 At this stage, no further consultation is required in respect of the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25.

6. EXECUTIVE ARE ASKED TO

1. Note the Poverty Strategy refresh which embeds the Poverty Truth Commission recommendations.
2. Note that a further update will be provided on the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25 for publication to establish the Council's strategic priority to address poverty across the borough.

Key Decision: Yes

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance: GB

Legal Officer Clearance: DS

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: Sara Saleh

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

