

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 14 December 2020
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships

Report Title

Trafford Council Poverty Strategy 2021/22

Summary

To provide a summary of the work completed to date and the next steps required to progress the one and three year Poverty Strategy.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Executive:

- (i) Notes the content of the report; and
- (ii) Approves the 'One Year' Poverty Strategy as detailed in the attached report.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Dianne Geary/Sarah Grant
Extension: 1821/3881

Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	<i>The Poverty Strategy supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan and Strategic Priorities</i>
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	<i>The Poverty Strategy is aligned to the GM policy and strategy where required.</i>
Financial	<i>None</i>
Legal Implications:	<i>None</i>
Equality/Diversity Implications	<i>None</i>
Sustainability Implications	<i>None</i>
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	<i>None</i>
Risk Management Implications	<i>None</i>
Health & Wellbeing Implications	<i>None</i>
Health and Safety Implications	<i>None</i>

1. CURRENT POSITION

- 1.1 The Partnerships and Communities team in conjunction with Public Health have been working on a poverty strategy for Trafford Council.
- 1.2 The development of a Poverty Strategy for Trafford began in 2019. An earlier draft of the Strategy was developed in collaboration with departments across the Council. Trafford Housing Trust and our partners through the Trafford Partnership Board were also involved in the development of the Strategy and VCSE organisations had been engaged in the process.
- 1.3 The Covid pandemic interrupted work on the development of that strategy document. On reviewing the position after a pause while significant other work across our communities was going on, it was clear that, whilst recognising the considerable amount of work which had been done to develop the Strategy, it did not take into consideration the huge impact which the pandemic has had in Trafford in terms of: its disproportionate impact on persons living in poverty; the economic impacts which are likely to see more people slipping into poverty; and, on a positive note, the incredible community response through the Community hubs.
- 1.4 The one-year strategy recognises the impact of our response to climate change on poverty. Mitigation responses to climate change such as improved public transport, enhanced green spaces, sustainable fuel sources and cleaner air will have a significant impact on those living in poverty. Work continues across a number of service areas, and in partnership, to deliver climate change and carbon reduction initiatives in a number of areas outlined in the strategy.
- 1.5 Furthermore, it is clear that the picture across Trafford is still continuing to develop as we have moved from response towards recovery and back in to response again. The social and economic impacts of the pandemic will be significant and long lasting and our recovery programme will need to have at its heart how we can build on what was good to create a fairer and more inclusive society.
- 1.6 As a consequence of this, a one-year Poverty Strategy for 2021/22 has been developed and approval of the strategy is now sought from the Executive. This

strategy is to set a clear direction for that period whilst providing time for the Council and partners to develop a longer-term strategy as the post-pandemic picture becomes clearer. Over the next 12 months we will work with partners to develop a three year Poverty Strategy for 2022-2025.

- 1.7 The Trafford Poverty Strategy sets out our bold vision for Trafford Council and our guiding principles for preventing and reducing poverty, and alleviating the effects of poverty for individuals and families. It seeks to complement and support the delivery of other strategies and the Corporate Plan.
- 1.8 The three year strategy will be developed and informed by the work of a Poverty Truth Commission which will be instigated in the New Year and which will provide a deeper understanding of all aspects of poverty and its impacts across Trafford. Consideration is being given to the way in which the Poverty Truth Commission carry out its commission as the work is usually completed face to face. Discussions are planned on how it can be launched over a digital platform and if this is feasible. Further consideration will need to be given to the financial costs associated with this initiative.
- 1.9 The importance of this work is recognised by the fact that the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships has been given specific responsibility for the Poverty Strategy and will be the lead member for delivery of this work.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 The Partnerships and Communities team will complete the follow up with the Poverty Truth Commission on how we design and deliver this initiative with a voluntary organisation and our key partners, and leaders across the borough.
- 2.2 The establishment of the Poverty Action Group as detailed in the report to deliver the actions and aspirations set out in the one year poverty strategy.
- 2.3 Whilst the strategy is being badged as a one year strategy, it will effectively bridge a slightly longer gap to enable the significant work which will be required to bring forward a three year strategy. It is proposed that the strategy will cover the whole of the financial year 21/22, with the intention that the three year strategy will be developed throughout the coming year and be effective from April 2022.

3. Other Options

- 3.1 The only other alternative is to do nothing and not adopt a poverty strategy at this stage, however, it is important that the Council's aims and objectives to tackle poverty across the borough are prioritised, which also supports the delivery of the corporate plan and strategic priorities.

4. Consultation

4.1 At this stage no consultation has been undertaken or is required in respect of the strategy.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To establish the Council's strategy to address poverty across the borough.

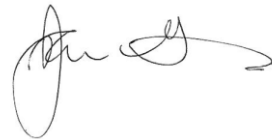
Key Decision: Yes

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

Finance Officer Clearance GB

Legal Officer Clearance DS

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE *(electronic)*.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.