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Report of: *Director of Policy, Performance & Communications*

Report to: *Cabinet*

Date of Decision: *18th March 2020*

Subject: *Sheffield Tackling Poverty Framework*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>Children & Families</i>		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee.</i>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given?	<i>EIA 785</i>	
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>		

Purpose of Report:

The Sheffield Tackling Poverty Framework re-states Sheffield City Council's commitment to tackling poverty by setting out an ambitious vision for a city free from poverty and some high level commitments which the council will pursue in order to help us deliver on that vision at a local level. It builds on our detailed 2015-2018 Tackling Poverty Strategy and also summarises the range of activity which has taken place across the city in recent years and the work which we continue to do. This report presents the Framework (Appendix 1) for approval.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet

- (a) Approves the Sheffield Tackling Poverty Framework, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, and the commitments contained within it.
- (b) Supports further work with partners to develop a more detailed Tackling Poverty Action Plan for the city, which will supersede the existing Tackling Poverty Strategy.
- (c) Agrees that, once developed, the Tackling Poverty Action Plan will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

Appendix 1 – Sheffield Tackling Poverty Framework 2020-2030

Appendix 2 – Tackling Poverty Case Studies: some examples of current activity

Appendix 3 – Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-2018

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: <i>Maddi Smith (on behalf of Paul Schofield)</i>
	Legal: <i>Andrea Simpson</i>
	Equalities: <i>Diane Owens</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	EMT member who approved submission: <i>James Henderson</i>
3	Cabinet Member consulted: <i>Cllr Jackie Drayton</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Laura White</i>
	Job Title: <i>Strategy & Partnerships Manager</i>
Date: 06.03.20	

1.0 PROPOSAL

- 1.1 In 2020, poverty is the day-to-day reality for many people in Sheffield and it affects all of us in the city. Our vision is for a Sheffield without poverty.
- 1.2 Sheffield's [Tackling Poverty Strategy](#) (attached to this report as Appendix 3) was developed with partners and approved by Cabinet in March 2015 and sets out a substantial evidence base, needs assessment and a wide range of actions which we continue to work towards. The strategy has not been superseded and remains current, but given the continued impact of austerity, we need to look again at what is happening in Sheffield and think about the next steps we will take in the new decade.
- 1.3 Over the past five years, work on addressing the impacts of poverty has continued and we have worked with partners to ensure a joined-up approach through our poverty and fairness partnership structures. Through the Sheffield City Partnership Board, partners have recently agreed to develop a set of city-wide priorities on poverty and inequality and so we have created this new council-owned framework to kick-start this process.¹
- 1.4 The Sheffield Tackling Poverty Framework 2020-2030, attached to this report as Appendix 1, restates our strong commitment to tackling poverty in the city. It aims to be a public-facing statement which presents a clear vision and set of priorities, as well as useful detail on what is, has been, and will be happening across the city.
- 1.5 A great deal will need to change at the national and international level for our vision to become a reality. But drawing on this vision, and focusing on what we can do at the local level, we have made a series of commitments for the decade ahead, as set out in the Framework below. This includes developing a supporting action plan with partners and stakeholders during 2020.
- 1.6 The commitments set out in the Framework are as follows:

1.7 Influence

- ✓ Work at the highest levels nationally and internationally to influence policies towards tackling poverty and make the argument that poverty impacts negatively on us all – including campaign work with partners through the Making Sheffield Fairer Campaign Group
- ✓ Work locally at a strategic level to shape policy and strategy development in a way that will draw out the implications for tackling poverty – for example, by developing a set of partner priorities on tackling poverty that are shared by the Sheffield City Partnership Board.
- ✓ Work to add impact and impetus to existing strategies, making identifying

¹ Sheffield City Partnership is the strategic partnership in Sheffield bringing together public, private and voluntary sector partners to help partners to join-up, share information and set a collective vision for Sheffield. It is non-statutory and does not have any formal decision-making powers.

opportunities for tackling poverty central to what we do. For example, as part of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, work with partners in the city to ensure that services that impact on the wider social determinants of health, including poverty, are properly resourced.

1.8 **Voice**

- ✓ Challenge stigma and negative narratives about people living in poverty and continue to open up conversations about how we – as Sheffielders – can make ours a city that works for everyone, where no-one should struggle to eat properly, or heat their home, or participate in society because they don't have enough money.
- ✓ Have an ongoing conversation with partners and communities to make sure that we are gathering intelligence, hearing the voices of people who are experiencing poverty, and ensuring that we use this to inform the next steps and actions which sit underneath this framework.
- ✓ Work with partners to find new and effective ways to make sure that lived experience of poverty informs other areas of policy, strategy and service delivery.

1.9 **Flexible Responses**

We will commit to working together with our partners and communities to provide a timely and joined-up response to important issues and impacts as they arise over the next 10 years.

This will include, but not be limited to the following:

- ✓ Working in partnership with schools and early years professionals to identify and support families who are living in poverty, linking with the emerging Great Start in Life Strategy and commitments to deliver good quality services in the early years of a child's life which meet the needs and expectations of all Sheffield families.
- ✓ Continue to identify shared citywide solutions to support people who are impacted by the huge changes to the benefits system. We will do this through the Universal Credit Partnership, the Combined Welfare Reform Group and forming new groups as necessary.
- ✓ Supporting a joined-up and strategic approach to food poverty whilst mitigating the worst effects, for example, through our holiday hunger programmes and linking to the Food & Wellbeing Strategy.
- ✓ Work with those who are commissioning and delivering services across the city, to ensure that the impacts of poverty and the experiences of people who are living in poverty are accounted for in service design and delivery.
- ✓ Develop a city-owned and flexible Tackling Poverty Action Plan to take forward this Framework, setting out our next steps for the short, medium and longer-term.

2.0 HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 This Framework provides a clear articulation of the council's ongoing commitment to tackling poverty and inequality in Sheffield.
- 2.2 The vision demonstrates the recognition that poverty and inequality have a profound impact on all aspects of city life, including the shape of our economy and society.
- 2.3 The aims set out in the Framework are already highly relevant across a range of key council and partner strategies (existing and emerging) as set out in the Framework.

3.0 HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 As detailed above and throughout the Framework, this discussion is taking place in the context of many years of partnership working and wider engagement on the issue of how we tackle poverty and inequality in Sheffield.
- 3.2 There is an explicit commitment articulated in the Framework to now work with partners to develop a shared and city-wide Tackling Poverty Action Plan as a key next step.

4.0 RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 Overall, the impact of the Tackling Poverty Framework on different parts of the population and the health and wellbeing of people in Sheffield is expected to be positive. Any projects or proposals developed as a result of this Tackling Poverty Framework will undergo a full and detailed Equality Impact Assessment to ensure that any impacts are identified and appropriate effective mitigations are put in place.
- 4.1.2 The Tackling Poverty Framework is expressly focused on addressing inequalities in Sheffield. As a result, advancing equality of opportunity would be a product of successful delivery.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial or commercial implications for the Council arising from this report. The implementation of any actions in support of the Tackling Poverty Strategy and in line with the Tackling Poverty Framework may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the financial and commercial implications will be considered fully at that time.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications for the Council arising from this report. The implementation of any actions in support of the Tackling Poverty Strategy and in line with the Tackling Poverty Framework may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the legal implications will be considered fully at that time.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The Tackling Poverty Strategy was developed in 2015 and will continue until a decision is made to replace it. However, this Framework sets out a refreshed approach within that context and gives us an opportunity to restate our commitment, highlight what we have done so far, and work with partners to develop a refreshed Action Plan for the decade ahead. The alternative would be to not adopt the framework.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Given the Council's strong commitment to tackling poverty and inequality across all areas of policy, strategy and delivery, it is timely for us to clearly restate our position and kick-start more vital work in this area.