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| CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | Agenda Item No. 6 |
| 21 MARCH 2011 | Public Report |

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide scrutiny members with an opportunity to comment on the draft Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy – Mapping the Route: From Poverty to Possibility.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to provide any comments, advice and guidance on the draft strategy as it starts its consultation journey

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 The Poverty Strategy is integral to the achievement of a sustainable community and reducing poverty in Peterborough is likely to be one of the themes in the single delivery plan

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This poverty needs assessment and strategy has been produced in response to the Child Poverty Bill and central government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The purpose of this document is to identify the needs of children, young people and their families in relation to the reduction of poverty within Peterborough and inform Peterborough's poverty strategy.

The Child Poverty Act¹ gained Royal Assent on 25 March 2010 under a Labour Government but has continued as a priority for the coalition government, marking the development of a Child Poverty Agenda coinciding with a period of rapid change and transformation

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 In particular, the committee are asked to consider the 5 broad themes on which the Strategy action plan will be based. They are asked to assure themselves that these are the right themes given the needs assessment which is outlined in the document.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implications for this strategy are wide and far reaching. Once consulted upon, it has the potential of changing the way that some services are provided to families in poverty.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The consultation which needs to be done is effectively launched at this scrutiny committee.

¹ Child Poverty Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/contents>

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Once the consultation has been completed the final draft document will be submitted to a further scrutiny committee for approval.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 Please see full list of documents listed in the strategy in the appendix.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy – Mapping the Route: From Poverty to Possibility