

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM:

**REPORT TO CABINET
12 JANUARY 2012**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Access and Communities - Lead Member - David Coleman.

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Ann McCoy

Tackling Family poverty

1. Summary

This report provides members with an update on the family poverty framework, outlines recent developments in government policy, highlights a number of key issues and seeks recommendations for next steps.

2. Recommendations

1. Receive this report and note its contents.
2. Note the changes in government policy.
3. Agree the next steps outlined at paragraph 8.

3. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise,

immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting.

And must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

This report provides members with an update on the Family Poverty Framework, outlines recent developments in government policy, highlights a number of key issues and seeks recommendations for next steps.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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BACKGROUND

1. At a meeting on 13th September 2010 CMT approved a draft Family Poverty Framework for consultation. The framework contained a number of draft objectives which were based around the ambitions of the framework, namely:
 - Facilitating the employment and skills development of parents
 - Information, advice and support for children and parents
 - Health, education, childcare and social services
 - Housing, environment and promoting social inclusion

This framework document formed the basis of a consultation event with Renaissance.

Consultation with Stockton Renaissance

2. A special consultation event was arranged with Stockton Renaissance to consider the Family Poverty Framework. The event was attended by 50 key delegates from across the Renaissance family of partnerships.

3. The outcome from the event showed that whilst there were some ambitions included in the original framework which were supported, overall the draft was seen as too general and all encompassing and needed to be more ambitious in its tone. There was also a strong suggestion that document proposed a universal approach to tackling family poverty which would be difficult to achieve given the current financial climate. It identified there was a need to be far more targeted in which families are offered support. It is worth noting that since the consultation event took place the programme of EIT reviews within the Council has resulted in outcomes that are implementing a more targeted approach. For example, the Early Intervention Grant Review.
4. Since the original report to CMT and the consultation event with Stockton Renaissance the national picture has changed significantly, not least in terms of central government policy, the publication of a number of relevant reviews and research and a much reduced financial settlement across all public sector organisations.

Policy Developments

5. The Coalition Government's policy framework with regard to family poverty has also become clearer and this is documented in the framework.
6. The Government also instigated a number of relevant reviews which have concluded and reported and the findings taken into consideration.

Next Steps

7. All of the factors outlined above have been taken into account and a revised draft framework produced. (See Appendix 1)
8. In order to complete the framework document and secure the appropriate approvals the following timescale is being proposed:
 - a. Draft framework document to Cabinet (12th January 2012) seeking approval for the general principles and agreement to undertake a child/family poverty needs assessment using the nationally available toolkit
 - b. Population of the detailed actions to be drawn from the Council Plan (2012/13) and other identified plans/strategies including the identification of some agreed measures of success
 - c. Further consultation with Stockton Renaissance (potential to include in the Renaissance event being planned for March 2012)
 - d. Final Family Poverty Framework document for sign off by Cabinet in April/May 2012.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The report and Framework supports the Sustainable Community Strategy.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As this is a Framework Document no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken however the strategies referred to in this document all have an Equality Impact Assessment.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

Renaissance members have been consulted during 2011.

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