

Cabinet

19 June 2023

Tackling Poverty Plan

Purpose:

To outline the Council's approach towards addressing poverty related matters.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To approve the Council's Tackling Poverty Plan 2023.

Reasons:

This Plan focuses on the wider tackling poverty agenda with key actions identified over the next 12-months which will support the Council's response to the current cost of living crisis. This Plan will be reviewed when the Welsh Government publish it's Child Poverty Strategy which is expected within the next 12-months.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Davies Evans, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing including tackling poverty

Directorate: Chief Executive

Name of Head of Service:

Noelwyn Daniel

Report Author:

Gwyneth Ayers

Designations:

Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET
19 JUNE 2023**

Tackling Poverty Plan

The Plan has been developed as an Interim Plan that will be reviewed once the Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy is published (expected within the next 12-months). Given the current cost of living crisis it was deemed important to publish a Council plan that focuses on actions over the next 12-months that will provide direct interventions but also support development of our medium and longer-term approach to tackling the root causes of poverty in Carmarthenshire.

The Plan outlines a definition of poverty, the reasons why we are developing a plan, links to the Council's Corporate Strategy and Public Services Board's Well-being Plan, the governance arrangements and outline of the range of Council services working on this agenda.

The Plan focuses on four key areas:

- Better understanding the challenges
- Preventing poverty
- Helping people into work
- Improving the lives of people living in poverty.

Actions against each of these four key areas are identified in the Plan.

The Plan is supported by Carmarthenshire poverty profile (attached as Appendix 1 of the report: Poverty – a Carmarthenshire Perspective). This provides an analysis of the key information and statistics to help build the picture of poverty in the County and will be continually reviewed and refreshed in order to help better understand the challenges and shape our interventions going forward.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

1. Tackling Poverty Plan

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Council has identified Tackling Poverty as one of our thematic priorities within the Council Corporate Strategy 2022-27, aligned to the wider Well-being Objective to enable our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous. In addition, the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB) has set a specific Well-being Objective to tackle poverty and its impacts as part of its Well-being Plan 2023-28.

Welsh Government are currently in the process of engaging stakeholders on the development of a refreshed national Child Poverty Strategy. It is anticipated that this will be published in the next 12-months.

Finance

There are no direct additional direct costs associated with delivering this plan as it will be delivered through existing budgets. However, it should be noted that the Council manages a range of support grants that tend to be income based and provide support to residents facing financial challenges including (but not limited to):

- Council Tax Reduction
- Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF)
- Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Prevention Fund
- Pupil Development Grants
- Cost of Living Discretionary Fund.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	NO
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s)

Member of the Council's Tackling Poverty Advisory Panel have contributed to the development of the Plan.

3. Community / Town Council

Links with town and community councils will be further developed as part of the implementation of the plan.

4. Relevant Partners

Links with Public Services Board (PSB) members will be further developed as part of the implementation of the plan and integration with the PSB well-being objective relating to tackling poverty and its impact.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED <p style="text-align: center;">YES</p>	Cllr. Linda Davies Evans fully supportive of the plan
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
THERE ARE NONE

