

## Rother District Council

Report to	-	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	-	27 January 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference

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**Recommendation:** It be **RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the draft terms of reference for the proposed Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group at Appendix A be approved;
  - 2) the draft timetable for the activity of the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group be added to the Work Programme; and
  - 3) the six Members to be appointed to the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group be agreed.
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**Head of Service: Joe Powell**

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### Introduction

1. At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 October 2019 it was resolved that an Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group be formed of six Members in order to investigate poverty locally and identify new ways of working to reduce poverty within the District.
2. The report highlighted that there are pockets of significant deprivation in Rother concentrated in parts of Bexhill and Rye. The causes of poverty and child poverty are multiple and complex and effective solutions that address the causes of poverty are likely to be similarly complex to achieve. The Council will be required to continue to coordinate with the full range of services tasked with alleviating the symptoms of poverty.
3. The report also noted that there are significant constraints in the influence the Council and local partner agencies can have on the factors that cause poverty and future activity is likely to continue to focus on alleviating its symptoms.

### Terms of Reference

4. The purpose of this report is to present for approval a draft Terms of Reference for the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group that can be found at Appendix A. The Terms of Reference proposes a set of aims and objectives for the group as well as a timetable in order for the group to:
  - Gather evidence and information
  - Consolidate the evidence and agree recommendations

- Present a final report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5. The draft terms of reference identifies a number of resource implications in terms of supporting the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group to achieve its aims and objectives. These include the need for nominations to be made to the Group as well as external organisations to be identified and invited to present evidence to the Group.
  6. There will also be implications on Council resources when the Group is formed in order to support the delivery of the Group's recommendations to Cabinet to inform future Council policy.

## **Conclusion**

7. The Draft Terms of Reference provide both a scope for the aims and objectives of the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group; a mechanism by which any recommendations can be produced and a timeframe.

## **Recommendation**

8. In order to form the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group to achieve its aims and objectives the draft Terms of Reference should be approved. In addition, the mechanism by which the six members of the Group will be decided should be agreed in line with the proposed timetable at Appendix A.

Malcolm Johnston  
Executive Director

## **Risk Assessment Statement**

Failure to have agreed Terms of Reference that set realistic parameters for the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group could result in ineffective recommendations that the Council is unable to implement.