

Summary Report of the Consultation on the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy

Open 4 April to 15 May 2022

Executive Summary

1. A large amount of written testimony received, which is available for Members to review upon request. We are unable to publish this information within the main report, given the confidential nature of much of the information provided.
2. 25 local organisations responded including seven town and parish councils, 13 charities and voluntary agencies also responded alongside three public sector organisations and two political parties (branches). In addition, we had a response from the Council's Planning Policy team.
3. The number of the general public that responded were as 66, with 18 (28%) indicating they would be affected personally by an anti-poverty strategy.
4. All of the main themes and proposed actions had majority support from both local organisations and the residents. The table below shows the percentage of those responding who either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed objectives and actions of the Strategy and its Action Plan.

| Coordination | Organisations | Public |
|--|---------------|--------|
| Is a key challenge in Rother | 94% | 92% |
| Action: Anti-Poverty Steering Group | 88% | 83% |
| Action: Quarterly reports to Rother LSP | 88% | 76% |
| Action: Engage local leaders as consultees | 73% | 76% |
| | | |
| Accessibility | Organisations | Public |
| Is a key challenge in Rother | 94% | 83% |
| Action: Bexhill hub and rural virtual hubs | 81% | 67% |
| Action: Support existing hubs signposting | 86% | 72% |
| Action: Street Sheet mapping services | 88% | 76% |
| Action: Social prescribing through GPs | 94% | 75% |
| | | |

| Promotion | Organisations | Public |
|--|---------------|--------|
| Is a key challenge in Rother | 94% | 83% |
| Training video on local services | 81% | 62% |
| Training video on statutory services | 69% | 60% |
| Anti-Poverty networking event for services | 69% | 73% |

Main Themes

5. Many responses mentioned that existing resources needed to be used more effectively rather than setting up new projects and that the strategy have more focus on improving digital inclusion.
6. The consultation drew out other strategies that are being worked on that the Anti-Poverty Strategy would need to align itself with, for example, Hastings & Rother Food Network's '*Food Insecurity Strategy for Rother*' and our own Planning Policy team's work on a '*Live Well Locally*' strategy.
7. We received some additional information and suggestions that the Council was asked to consider, so as to enrich the draft strategy, support its delivery and inform future strategy development, some example suggestions were:
 - a. That Citizens Advice would like to add to the data already provided at the 'evidence gathering' stage of the strategy formation and inform the direction of the strategy delivery.
 - b. That service data from the Bexhill and Battle foodbanks continue to be used to inform the implementation of the strategy and the formation of future strategies.
 - c. That Public Health at East Sussex County Council feed in information and research about poverty, to include its causes and influences, in order to better align to the emerging objectives of the Integrated Care System (ICS).
 - d. A request from the NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group for a more specific reference to how reducing poverty addresses one of the wider determinants of health.
 - e. A request from Brede Parish Council for an extension of the strategy with links into related strategies that address the causes of poverty and deprivation such as housing, economic development, the Local Plan.