

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Scrutiny Panel – Food Poverty

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at The Jeffrey Room,
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on
17 July 2019 at 6pm

George Candler
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Scrutiny Panel 1 - Food Poverty** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Panel

Chair	Councillor Dennis Meredith
Panel Members	Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz) Councillor Alan L Bottwood Councillor Muna Cali Councillor Emma Roberts Councillor Cathrine Russell Councillor Zoe Smith
Co-opted Member	To be confirmed

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
25 September 2019 6:00 pm 20 November 14 January 2020	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Scrutiny Panel 1 - Food Poverty

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1. 6pm	Apologies		The Chair to note any apologies for absence.
2.	Declarations of Interest		Members to state any interests.
3.	Deputations and Public Addresses		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.</p>
4.	Minutes	1 - 6	The Scrutiny Panel to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2019.
5. 6:05pm	Presentation to set the scene		The Scrutiny Panel to receive a presentation that sets the scene.
6. 6:45pm	Core questions	7 - 8	The Scrutiny Panel to agree the list of core questions to be put to expert advisors.
7. 7pm	Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network	9 - 10	The Scrutiny Panel to receive a briefing note regarding the recent meeting of the Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network.
8. 7:10pm	Site Visits	11	The Scrutiny Panel to discuss potential site visits that it would undertake as part of the evidence gathering for this Review.
9. 7:25pm	Community Impact Assessment	12 - 23	The Scrutiny Panel to approve the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) for this Review.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - FOOD POVERTY

Wednesday, 5 June 2019

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Meredith (Chair), Councillor Roberts

Officers Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager
Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all those present to the inaugural meeting of Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Russell (Deputy Chair) and Councillors Bottwood, Cali and Smith.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESS

There were none.

5. SCOPE OF REVIEW

The Scrutiny Panel considered the draft scope of the review – Food Poverty, making additions and updates as appropriate.

AGREED: That the scope of the review – Food Poverty, as appended to the minutes is presented to the July 2019 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

The meeting concluded at 6:45 pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - FOOD POVERTY

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

Key Lines of Enquiry

- What are the impacts of food poverty?
- How widespread is food poverty in the borough?
- What strategic approaches are in existence to tackle food poverty?
- What approaches are in existence to reduce people's dependency on food aid, such as Food Banks?
- To receive an understanding of how food poverty is addressed
- To evaluate how the Borough Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to food poverty
- To identify the specific issues relating to food poverty
- To identify the existence and impact of "holiday hunger"
- To identify how food poverty differs across the borough of Northampton and the reasons for this

2. Outcomes Required

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of food poverty in Northampton.
- To make recommendations on how the specific issues in relation to food poverty are dealt with from now until the new Unitary Authority.

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Site visits (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Presentation to set the scene: To identify the prevalence of the problem locally
 - Relevant national and local background research papers
 - Definitions – Food Poverty
 - Causes of food poverty
 - Best practice and successful initiatives in Northampton and comparable Local Authorities
 - Relevant Council Policies and Strategies
 - Relevant Statistics and relevant reports, including:
 - Poverty indicators
 - Demographics (national and Local)
 - UN report on food poverty
 - Institute of Fiscal Studies report on food poverty
 - Relevant Legislation, including:
 - Child Poverty Act 2010
 - Changes to Universal Credit
 - Introduction to benefits and the impact
 - Best practice external to Northampton

- Internal expert advisors:
 - Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Head of Revenues and Benefits, LGSS
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
 - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Community Safety Team
 - Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
 - Section 151 Officer, NBC

- External expert advisors:
 - Community Law, Northampton
 - Child Poverty Action Group
 - Education Services, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Director of Children’s Services, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Community and Voluntary Sector
 - Northamptonshire Citizens Advice Bureau
 - RESTORE
 - Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Rapid Relief
 - Representations of the Sikh Community
 - Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, NCC
 - Head Teachers of local primary and secondary schools (written evidence)
 - Local Youth Clubs, including Community Spaces
 - Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions

- Site visit to be confirmed

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
 - Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

- Paul Foster, Community Organiser, Emmanuel Church, and Rachel McGrath, Chair, Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network, to be approached to be co-optees on this Scrutiny Panel

7. Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

8. Evidence gathering Timetable

June 2019 – January 2020

- 5 June 2019 - Scoping meeting
 - 17 July - Evidence gathering
 - 25 September - Evidence gathering
 - 20 November - Evidence gathering
 - 14 January 2020 - Approval of the final report
- Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.
- Further meetings to be programmed into the schedule

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager
Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager

10. Resources and Budgets

Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by January 2020. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (approximately October 2020)

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – FOOD POVERTY CORE QUESTIONS – EXPERT ADVISORS

DRAFT

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review:

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

The required outcomes are:

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of food poverty in Northampton.
- To make recommendations on how the specific issues in relation to food poverty are dealt with from now until the new Unitary Authority.

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. In your opinion, what are the main impacts of food poverty?
2. How widespread do you understand food poverty in the borough to be?
3. In your opinion does food poverty differ across the borough of Northampton and what are the reasons for this?
4. What strategic approaches are you aware of to tackle food poverty?
5. What approaches are in existence to reduce people's dependency on food aid, such as Food Banks?
6. How do you understand food poverty is being addressed?
7. How can the Borough Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to food poverty?
8. In your opinion what are the specific issues relating to food poverty?
9. Are you aware of the existence of "holiday hunger" and what is its impact?
10. Please supply details of the support that your organisation or group offers?
11. Please supply details of your thoughts on suggested solutions regarding food poverty.
12. Do you have further information or comments regarding food poverty which you would like to inform the Scrutiny Panel?



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - FOOD POVERTY

17 JULY 2019

BRIEFING NOTE: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOOD POVERTY NETWORK

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Customer Services Manager and the Democratic Services Manager attend the Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network meeting, at Spring Boroughs, on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

2 PRESENTATIONS

- 2.1 The Network received various presents around background data, statistics and research around food poverty.
- 2.2 Presentations were received from:
- The Food Foundation including information about its work
 - Food Foundation including the [Children's Future Food Inquiry](#), background data, evidence received, conclusions and key findings.
 - The Hope Centre, Northampton
- 2.3 A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A to this briefing note.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The main conclusions from this desktop research exercise:
- 14,000 children are living in poverty in Northampton. The Under Secretary wrote to all Head Teachers of primary and secondary schools in the UK to identify the issue of child food insecurity.
 - End hunger week is held late October, annually
 - The Fair Deal for Kids Appeal that focused on child food insecurity raised £10,000 and this was donated to food child poverty charities.
 - Central Government has confirmed it will begin to measure food insecurity from April 2019.

- “Behind closed doors” exhibition was held, in conjunction with Oxfam. The exhibition engaged with people.
- The focus of the Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network for 2019 is raising public awareness of levels of food insecurity with a focus on child food insecurity, Welfare Reform and the Living Wage alongside the national #EndHungerUK campaign priorities
- The Right2Food Charter presents recommendations from children aged between 10 and 18 for improving their access to enough nutritious food.
- Access to free water was not provided in all schools and there is no monitoring of food standards in schools. Children of families with no re-course to public funds are not able to have free school meals and evidence showed some teachers are providing food for these children. Food poverty exists in the school summer holidays. Free school meals stigma exists and in Prestatyn free school meals have been rebranded to un-stigmatise them.
- Unhealthy food is three times cheaper than healthy foods
- The Food Foundation co-ordinated the Inquiry – Children’s Future Food Inquiry.
- The Food Foundation made a pledge to increase vegetable contribution across the UK, which has been funded by ten supermarkets across the UK.
- The Food Foundation works in collaboration with Charities.
- A listening event took place in the House of Lords.
- 30% of food grown or produced in the UK is wasted.
- Food Banks are primarily for adults and families therefore it is important that children have direct access to food through schools and nurseries
- The Hope Centre has the provision of a large warehouse, with freezers but most Food Banks do not have such a provision. This warehouse can deliver around 18-20 crates of fresh produce in a day. The Hope Centre also has 12 allotment plots. There are a number of charities providing added value food aid provision across Northampton but the demand exceeds their capacity based on limited funding and resources

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the findings of the desktop research exercise informs the evidence base of the Scrutiny Review – Food Poverty

Author: Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager, on behalf of Councillor Dennis Meredith, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty

14 June 2019



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – FOOD POVERTY

17 JULY 2019

BRIEFING NOTE: POTENTIAL SITE VISITS

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Panel, at its inaugural scoping meeting, agreed that there was a need for site visits to take place.

2 Information

- 2.1 Desktop research will be undertaken regarding best practice initiatives both in Northampton and external to the town. A briefing note detailing the findings will be presented to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

3 Site visit proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that a site visit is arranged for representatives of the Scrutiny Panel to visit a Food Bank in the borough. The findings of which will inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review. It is suggested that the Chair and one other member of the Panel, together with Officers, takes part in this site visit. It is suggested that the Chair, together with the Democratic and Member Services Manager, visits one food bank; another Councillor, together with the Customer Services Manager visits another food bank. RESTORE will be contacted regarding the site visits.
- 3.2 It is further proposed that representatives of the Scrutiny Panel meet with the organisers of a Holiday Club. The findings of which will inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Democratic and Member Services Manager makes arrangements for representatives of the Scrutiny Panel to visit a Food Bank and meet with the organisers of a Holiday Club.
- 4.2 That a report back on the findings of the site visits is presented to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel.
- 4.3 That a report back on the findings of the desktop research is presented to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager, on behalf of Councillor Dennis Meredith Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty

Date: 17 June 2019

Community Impact Assessment

(Incorporating equality analysis and health considerations)
V2.0

Name of Matter Assessed:

Overview and Scrutiny Review – Food Poverty

Who will make the decision:
(e.g. Cabinet/Board etc.)

Overview and Scrutiny will produce a report with its evidence, findings and recommendations and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will present this report to Cabinet for its consideration.

Who has been involved in developing the matter:

Lead Officers: Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager and Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager
Chair of the Scrutiny Panel: Councillor Dennis Meredith

What is it:

A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is a document that summarises how the council has had due regard to the public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010) in decision-making. This document can also be used to consider health and narrowing health inequalities (Health and Care Act 2012)

When to assess:

A CIA should be carried out when you are changing, removing or introducing a new service, policy or function. The assessment should be proportionate; a major financial decision will need to be assessed more closely than a minor policy change.

Due Regard:

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions and in its other day-to-day activities the council must consciously consider the need to do the things set out in the general equality duty: eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

In relation to health, we need to consider the potential short term and long term implication of for decisions that we take to support the Health and Wellbeing agendas.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend on the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the aims in the general equality duty to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact, the higher the regard required by the duty. We need to make sure that we understand the potential impact of decisions on people with different protected characteristics and also need to consider this information before and as decisions are being made. This will help us to reduce or remove unhelpful impacts and inequalities

Proposal Name:

Overview and Scrutiny Review – Food Poverty

Aims/Objectives and purpose of the policy/service/function

Aims and objectives:

Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

Key Lines of Enquiry

- What are the impacts of food poverty?
- How widespread is food poverty in the borough?
- What strategic approaches are in existence to tackle food poverty?
- What approaches are in existence to reduce people's dependency on food aid, such as Food Banks?
- To receive an understanding of how food poverty is addressed
- To evaluate how the Borough Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to food poverty
- To identify the specific issues relating to food poverty
- To identify the existence and impact of "holiday hunger"
- To identify how food poverty differs across the borough of Northampton and the reasons for this

Key actions:

Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) is a means of providing non-Executive Councillors the opportunity to inform policy development and critical friend challenge to the Council's Executive policy makers and decision makers (Cabinet). It also has a strong role in promoting the engagement of non-Executive Councillors in a diverse range of policy development activities, including performance improvement at the Council. Scrutiny aims to engage the community in its work either by attendance at meetings, public addresses to meetings, witness evidence, or co-optees to Scrutiny Reviews.

This Review will hear from a number of key stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of evidence is obtained to inform the Panel's information base.

The projected outcome of this Scrutiny Review is:

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of food poverty in Northampton.
- To make recommendations on how the specific issues in relation to food poverty are dealt with from now until the new Unitary Authority.

All Scrutiny Reviews link to the Council's Corporate Plan. Details of which are evidenced within the final report. In particular, this Scrutiny Review links to corporate priority – Resilient Communities.

Expected outcomes:

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of food poverty in Northampton.
- To make recommendations on how the specific issues in relation to food poverty are dealt with from now until the new Unitary Authority.

Who will be affected and how:

Overview and Scrutiny ensures that it adheres to the Council's statutory duty to provide the public with access to Scrutiny reports/agendas/minutes and other such documents. Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Scrutiny Panels are widely publicised, i.e.: on the Council's website, copies issues to the local media and paper copies available in the Council's One Stop Shop and local libraries.

Overview and Scrutiny is currently operating paperless meetings. A paperless meeting is a move away from the traditional format for Councillor meetings, which usually involves the printing and distribution of a significant amount of paperwork. Instead, Overview and Scrutiny is operating electronically and Councillors view all the documents for the meeting on their laptop or ICT device. The agenda items will be displayed upon the large screens in the meeting room.

All information relating to meetings of the Council's Committees is published in both PDF and RTF format to allow for accessibility by Councillors, Co-Optees, Officers and the general public. Should individuals not have the provision of a personal PC they will be able to view the data on a PC located in the Council's One Stop Shop and local libraries.

Approximately how many people will be affected:

The impact of the Scrutiny report cannot be assessed until, at the earliest, an outline of a report has been developed. Therefore, within the Scrutiny Panel's report it could suggest that any impact on the eight protected characteristics be taken into account.

However, any potential recommendations could have an effect on the community of the borough of Northampton, including:

- All residents
- Community Groups
- Key Partners

Expected date of decision:

It is anticipated that the report of the Scrutiny Panel will be concluded in January 2019, presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2019 and to Cabinet in approximately June 2019. Cabinet will then become responsible for delivering the recommendations that it accepts.

Scope/focus of the assessment:

Please outline the scope and focus of the assessment:

The Scrutiny Panel is mindful of the eight protected characteristics when undertaking scrutiny activity so that any recommendations that it makes can identify potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community. This will be borne in mind as the Scrutiny Review progresses and evidence is gathered. The final report of the Scrutiny Panel has a standard section entitled Community Impact Assessment and details the findings

Any potential recommendations proposed by the Scrutiny Panel may have perceived adverse and beneficial effects for all diversity groups.

The public's lack of understanding of either the Overview and Scrutiny function or the issues under review could lead to poorly attended and little public participation in the process.

The more public participation in the Overview and Scrutiny function will increase further participation; for example, should individuals be aware that individuals and representatives from community groups are attending such meeting and are involved in the Scrutiny process as a co-optee, and notice the difference that they can make; they too could become involved.

A comprehensive [Overview and Scrutiny webpage](#) has been developed and a leaflet promoting the work of Overview and Scrutiny and detailing how members of the public can become involved in the process has been issued to the Council's One Stop Shop and the town's main libraries. This leaflet is also distributed to attendees at all Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel meetings.

So that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a variety of views, the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel will contact a wide range of key witnesses, including

Evidence gathered from the key witnesses will be analysed and contained within the Scrutiny Panel's final report. The comments of the key witnesses will be minuted and published publicly within the [Council's meeting management system](#).

Should the Scrutiny Panel conclude the need for recommendations for change; the expected impact of these changes will be detailed within the Scrutiny Panel's final report.

The Scrutiny Panel's report, after it has been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, will be forwarded to the Council's Cabinet for consideration; Cabinet will then become responsible for delivering the recommendations that it accepts.

Meetings of this Scrutiny Panel are held in easily accessible locations (wheel chair accessible), with the provision of a hearing loop and start at 6pm; so aiming to enable those with working commitments to attend. It could be found that the timing of Overview and meetings (evenings) may not be suitable to all, for example those who are required to work during the evenings.

There is a standing agenda item on all Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel meetings enabling members of the public to address the Committee/Panel. The public does not have to register their intention to speak in advance but is advised to arrive a few minutes prior to the start of the meeting and notify the Scrutiny Officer of their intention to speak. A [Scrutiny Public Speaking Protocol](#) has been produced and advice and

assistance is offered and available to members of the public wishing to attend and address an Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Panel meeting.

- Internal expert advisors:
 - Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Head of Revenues and Benefits, LGSS
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
 - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Community Safety Team
 - Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
 - Section 151 Officer, NBC

- External expert advisors:
 - Community Law, Northampton
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 - Education Services, Northamptonshire County Council
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 - Community and Voluntary Sector
 - Northamptonshire Citizens Advice Bureau
 - RESTORE
 - Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Rapid Relief
 - Representations of the Sikh Community
 - Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, NCC
 - Head Teachers of local primary and secondary schools (written evidence)
 - Local Youth Clubs, including Community Spaces
 - Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions

The Council has access to an interpretative service and therefore such documents can be supplied in formats other than English if required.

Provision has been made for attendees to the meeting who have a disability, e.g. the agenda will be displayed on a large screen in the Committee room. For those who may suffer from a visual impairment, the blind have access to ‘talking’ documents, those whose first language is not English have access to translation services and the building in which the meetings will occur contain hearing loops and are accessible by those with severe mobility issues, such as wheel chair users.

Community Screening Outcome

Will the proposal:	Yes/No
Eliminate discrimination, harassment or victimisation	Yes
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes
Contribute towards health improvements or inequalities	Yes

Relevant data and/or research

Outline the information and research that has informed the decision:

<p>The number of public attending the Scrutiny Panel meetings is recorded.</p> <p>Any feedback received from the above is taken into consideration and used to formulate recommendations to improve the Service.</p> <p>Background data will provided to the Panel including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation to set the scene: To identify the prevalence of the problem locally ➤ Relevant national and local background research papers ➤ Definitions – Food Poverty ➤ Causes of food poverty ➤ Best practice and successful initiatives in Northampton and comparable Local Authorities ➤ Relevant Council Policies and Strategies ➤ Relevant Statistics and relevant reports, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty indicators Demographics (national and Local) UN report on food poverty Institute of Fiscal Studies report on food poverty ➤ Relevant Legislation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Poverty Act 2010 Changes to Universal Credit Introduction to benefits and the impact <p>Best practice external to Northampton</p>
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Sources and key findings:

Sources of information are detailed above and key findings will be fully known when the Scrutiny Panel has completed its Review.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics:

The impact of the Scrutiny report cannot be assessed until, at the earliest, an outline of a report has been developed. Therefore, within the Scrutiny Panel's report it could suggest that any impact on the eight protected characteristics be taken into account.

However any potential recommendations could have an effect on the community of the borough of Northampton, including:

- All residents
- Community Groups
- Key Partners

Rationale for change

What will you do if/when changes are agreed/introduced:

The purpose of this Scrutiny Review is

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

Key Lines of Enquiry

- What are the impacts of food poverty?
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- To identify the existence and impact of "holiday hunger"
- To identify how food poverty differs across the borough of Northampton and the reasons for this

Identification of affected groups/individuals

List the groups/individuals that may be affected by the proposal:

Any potential recommendations could have an effect on the community of the borough of Northampton, including:

- All residents
- Community Groups
- Key Partners

Assess and/or undertake Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

As part of the evidence gathering for this Scrutiny Review, a number of expert advisers will be consulted, including:

- Internal expert advisors:
 - Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Head of Revenues and Benefits, LGSS
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
 - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Community Safety Team
 - Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
 - Section 151 Officer, NBC
- External expert advisors:
 - Community Law, Northampton
 - Child Poverty Action Group
 - Education Services, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Director of Children's Services, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Community and Voluntary Sector
 - Northamptonshire Citizens Advice Bureau
 - RESTORE
 - Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
 - Rapid Relief
 - Representations of the Sikh Community
 - Cabinet Member for Children's Services, NCC
 - Head Teachers of local primary and secondary schools (written evidence)
 - Local Youth Clubs, including Community Spaces
 - Partnership Manager, Department of Work and Pensions

What were the results of the consultation:

Consultation with various expert advisers will take place over a series of scheduled meetings, the outcomes of which will inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Review, which will inform the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal:

Evidence gathered from all sources will be analysed and contained within the Scrutiny Panel's final report.

The selection of witnesses to participate in the Review has specifically and deliberately included representatives of Groups working with and for people with protected characteristics.

Overview and Scrutiny will continue to offer facilities, such as language translation.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics:

The Scrutiny Panel will, after completion of its evidence gathering, formulate conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, which will have the intended purpose of recommending a system of community participation and involvement with other Agencies and interested parties. Recommendations will link to SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time) objectives. Should the recommendations be accepted by the Council's Cabinet, they will then be implemented and necessary actions drawn up.

Assessment of impact on staff

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if/as appropriate:

The Scrutiny Panel will, after completion of its evidence gathering, formulate conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, which will have the intended purpose of recommending a system of community participation and involvement with other Agencies and interested parties. Recommendations will link to SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time) objectives. Should the recommendations be accepted by the Council's Cabinet, they will then be implemented and necessary actions drawn up.

Assessment of impact on wider community

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

The Scrutiny Panel will, after completion of its evidence gathering, formulate conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, which will have the intended purpose of recommending a system of community participation and involvement with other Agencies and interested parties. Recommendations will link to SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time) objectives. Should the recommendations be accepted by the Council's Cabinet, they will then be implemented and necessary actions drawn up.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

	Risks (Negative)	Opportunities (Positive)	
Race	No impact anticipated but there is the need to ensure appropriate access to interpreting services as necessary.		
Disability	No impact anticipated. However, there are no arrangements in place such as sign language interpreters at meetings.	Meetings of this Scrutiny Panel are held in accessible meeting rooms, normally with the provision of a hearing loop.	
Gender or Gender Identity/Gender Assignment		Staff training addresses Equality and Diversity. Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel are attended by all genders.	
Pregnancy and Maternity (including breastfeeding)	Initially no impact anticipated but there is the need to ensure equitable access for all attendees and Councillors at meetings of this Scrutiny Panel.		
Sexual Orientation		No impact anticipated.	
Age (including children, youth, midlife and older people)		No impact anticipated. Meetings of this Scrutiny Panel are normally held during the evening with the aim that they are accessible to all.	
Religion, Faith and Belief		No impact anticipated.	
Human Rights		No impact anticipated	

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics

Relevance = High/Low/None

Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Please refer to the table above for more information

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	None	Neutral
Disability	None	Neutral
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Low
Race	None	Low
Religion or belief	None	Neutral
Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	None	Neutral

**when assessing relevance and impact, make it clear who the assessment applies to within the characteristic category. For example, a decision may have high relevance for young people, but low relevance for older people; it may have a positive impact on women but a neutral impact on men*

Please provide details:

Please refer to table of analysis as above.

Mitigation of adverse impact on staff/service/people

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

N/A

Publication of results

This Impact Assessment will be published on the Council's website

Monitoring and review

Please give details of how the changes will be monitored, and when the next review is due:

Recommendations contained within the report of the Scrutiny Panel will link to SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time) objectives. Should the recommendations be accepted by the Council's Cabinet, they will then be implemented and necessary actions drawn up.

The Scrutiny Panel's report, after it has been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, will be forwarded to the Council's Cabinet for consideration; Cabinet will then become responsible for delivering the recommendations that it accepts.

The impact of the accepted recommendations contained with the final report of the Scrutiny Panel will be monitored six months after they have been accepted by Cabinet.

Conclusion

There should be no unlawful discrimination arising from the decision.

Please state how "Due regard" has been taken to the equality duty, and public health considerations:

The impact of the Scrutiny report cannot be assessed until, at the earliest, an outline of a report has been developed. Therefore, with the report of the Scrutiny Panel it could suggest that any impact on the eight protected characteristics be taken into account.

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The impact of the Scrutiny report cannot be assessed until, at the earliest, an outline of a report has been developed. Therefore, with the report of the Scrutiny Panel it could suggest that any impact on the eight protected characteristics be taken into account.

Signed:

Date: