



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION

Date:	2021-07-11
Name of person proposing topic:	Cllr Dr David Willingham Co-sponsors: Cllr Richard Pineger & Cllr Alisha Lewis
Contact:	Cllr.David.Willingham@cheltenham.gov.uk / 07308 954418
Suggested title of topic:	Tackling deprivation
What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?	
<p>While Cheltenham is predominantly an affluent town, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for England, show that there are several areas that have high levels of multiple deprivation. Two areas (St Mark's 1 / Cheltenham 005C and St Paul's 2 / Cheltenham 004C) have consistently been in the 10% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the 2010, 2015 and 2019 IMDs.</p> <p>The IMDs are calculated based upon seven distinct domains of deprivation: Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Education, Skills and Training Deprivation, Health Deprivation and Disability, Crime, Barriers to Housing and Services, and Living Environment Deprivation.</p> <p>There are two further indices: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index.</p> <p>The indicators used to calculate the various domains of the IMDs are all likely to be indicative of issues that are likely to lead to worse outcomes, for individuals (e.g. life expectancy), communities (e.g. crime or poor quality housing) and some may perpetuate to worse outcomes for subsequent generations (e.g. child poverty).</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council cannot on its own tackle these issues, but it should look to ensure that its policies and service delivery is targeted at working with communities to help them address the causal factors of multiple deprivation that it can influence and it should be working with other stakeholders to ensure that their efforts are similarly targeted.</p>	
What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review (outcomes)	
<p>The causes of Multiple Deprivation are by their very nature varied and complex. There is no single body, authority, or organisation that has the sole ability or responsibility for tackling these issues. The indicators used to generate the IMD, are likely to be indicative of issues such as poverty or health inequalities, affecting the social, environmental or economic outcomes of an area.</p> <p>A scrutiny review, possibly in a task and finish format, may be able to achieve some of the following via a scrutiny working group on Tackling Multiple Deprivation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the causes, the causes of the causes, and possibly higher differentials of causation.• Identify the areas that Cheltenham Borough Council can directly influence to help tackle multiple deprivation.• Identify the other stakeholders that have the ability to help tackle multiple deprivation.• Identify the outcomes that we would like to achieve, and what indicators show whether our work is having the desired effect.• Hold scrutiny sessions with those stakeholders to ensure that we understand their aspirations and what they are able to contribute.	

- Perform a needs assessment for the each of the areas looking at any LSOA that is in the most deprived quintile (20%) for any of the IMD domains.
- Make recommendations to Council, Cabinet, CBC representatives on outside bodies, to the LGA, the MHCLG, etc. on the resources, policies, powers and funding that are needed to help tackle multiple deprivation.
- Provide an over-arching co-ordination role with the various other stakeholders to ensure that organisations' local delivery in Cheltenham are all directed towards the same outcomes and objectives.

It is hoped that the scrutiny working group will be the impetus for Cheltenham trying to develop a "Cheltenham Tackling Deprivation Strategy 2022-2030" document similar to the Portsmouth City Council "Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-2020" document.

If there a strict time constraint?	No
Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	Yes – Very important to the affected communities
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	Not necessarily – it may be poorly performing services, it may be a lack of co-ordination of services, it may be a missing service,
Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?	Yes – tackling deprivation is clearly part of the Place Vision under the objective "Cheltenham is a place where everyone thrives."

Any other comments:

Reference materials:

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2094524/gloucestershire_deprivation_2019_v13.pdf
https://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html#
<https://maps.cdrc.ac.uk/#/geodemographics/imde2019/default/BTTTTFT/13.62149131189496/-2.0957/51.9010/>
<https://parallel.co.uk/imd/#12.27/51.90314/-2.07513>
<https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/deprivation/maps/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-research-report>
<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/tackling-poverty-strategy.pdf>

Officer Implications

Richard Gibson, Strategy and Engagement Manager:

As a council we have set out a place vision for Cheltenham of being a town where everyone thrives. The data from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation would suggest that this is not the case and that there are complex inter-relationships between education, skills, employment, income levels and access to housing that mean that some of our residents are not in a position to thrive.

I would draw the sponsor's attention to a previous discussion paper considered by O+S in October 2019:

https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s30954/2019_10_21_OS_indices%20of%20deprivation_discussion%20paper.pdf

This report might answer some of the questions posed by the sponsors and act as a baseline for the proposed review.

One area that was highlighted in the 2019 report was the potential for the council to lead the development of an inclusive growth strategy. Now that our plans for Golden Valley are coming to fruition along with plans for Minster Exchange, the review could pay particular attention to this.

I must though caution about staff and partner capacity to support the review. The review is not in current work-plans and would require an investment of time from a range of officers across the organisation. The sponsors will need to be realistic about the timescales for the review.

Tracey Crews, Director of Planning:

Before we commence a scrutiny review, it would be wise to ask colleagues within the county council's research team to pull together the latest 'Cheltenham Story' in a post-Covid environment.

It is noted that the issues which the review wishes to tackle are multi-agency based and although CBC may be an enabler and influencer on some of these outcomes, we do not own the outcomes, with the exception of housing delivered via CBH. We would therefore need their full support and capacity of staff to deliver a review.

Cyber will be a key lever to contribute to some of the outcomes and now we have our preferred partner identified we need time to work through how benefits will flow and make positive impacts on the issues identified – a review at this time, could be too early to properly test the benefits that cyber will bring.

The Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force skills sub-group is making progress on actions linked to the Task Force business plan. Gloucestershire College is a key partner in this and is already leading on wide range of skills, employment and education initiatives.

The review will also need to be aware that the council's organisational review is looking at where economic development and the wider growth agenda sits and the priority outcomes for this. This will include reflection of the LGA Peer Review that in part has been responded to by creation of the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force but where there is ongoing engagement with partners and stakeholders.

Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register

The council's corporate plan 2019-2023 includes a key priority that the council will increase the supply of housing and invest to build resilient communities. One of the three commitments is the following:

With our partners we will develop a community-based approach that achieves inclusive growth and tackles inequality to ensure all our communities benefit from the improvements and investments we make.