

Cheltenham Borough Council

Overview & Scrutiny – 5th June 2023

Report of the Scrutiny Task Group

Tackling Multiple Deprivation

Accountable member:

Cllr. David Willingham, Chair of the Scrutiny Task Group

Accountable officer:

Richard Gibson, Head of Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships

Accountable scrutiny committee:

Overview & Scrutiny

Ward(s) affected:

N/A

Key/Significant Decision:

No

Executive summary:

Following a scrutiny topic request submitted by Cllr. Willingham, the Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) committee set up a task group on the topic of Tackling Multiple Deprivation in July 2022. The group's specific remit was outlined in the One Page Strategy, which is attached at Appendix 3. The final report is attached at Appendix 4, and further detail on the recommendations is attached at Appendix 5. O&S is asked to consider the final report and refer the report and recommendations to Cabinet for further consideration.

Recommendations:

1. To consider and approve the final report of the Scrutiny Task Group;
2. To refer the recommendations to Cabinet.

1. Implications

1.1. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations or actions in this report.

Signed off by: Gemma Bell, Director of Finance and Assets (Deputy Section 151 Officer), gemma.bell@cheltenham.gov.uk

1.2. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report. Specific legal advice may need to be sought on any projects arising from the task report and its conclusions.

Signed off by: One Legal – legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

1.3. Environmental and climate change implications

The recommendations of this report support the Climate Emergency Action Plan: Pathway to Net Zero and the Council's ambitions to achieve net zero. There are no direct negative environmental implications as a result of this report. However, when considering 'outreach vehicles' with the NHS, attempt to use low-carbon transportation.

Signed off by: Maizy McCann, Climate Emergency Support Officer,
Maizy.mccann@cheltenham.gov.uk

1.4. Property/asset implications

There are no direct property implications as a result of the recommendations in this report however work is ongoing to bring a number of different agencies and support organisations across Cheltenham into the Municipal Offices to provide a "one-stop" shop as well as encouraging stronger partnership working towards better outcomes for our residents.

Signed off by: Gemma Bell, Director of Finance and Assets (Deputy Section 151 Officer), gemma.bell@cheltenham.gov.uk

1.5 Corporate policy framework implications

No implications, some actions proposed will support corporate plan priorities for example net zero.

Signed off by: Ann Wolstencroft, Head of Performance Projects & Risk,
ann.wolstencroft@cheltenham.gov.uk

2. Promoting equality and reducing discrimination

The work of the STG has been to consult with others to understand the inequalities faced by residents living in areas of multiple deprivation. The recommendations, under the headings of cost of living, housing, health and education will seek to take action to reduce these inequalities.

3. Performance management – monitoring and review

The report suggests that the recommendations be reviewed by O&S in 12 months' time. The further information provided at Appendix 5 also suggests measures of progress (where applicable) to be taken into account when the recommendations are being reviewed. In addition to this, the last recommendation calls for ongoing conversations between partners across the issues raised by the task group.

4. Background

4.1. The Scrutiny Task Group was set up by O&S in 2022 following a scrutiny topic request submitted by Cllr. Willingham. A six month schedule was agreed, with the group to report back to O&S with a set of recommendations or workplan for the next year.

4.2. Further background is included in the full report at Appendix 4 (Parts 1-3).

5. Reasons for recommendations

5.1. The final recommendations have been identified, in consultation with Members and officers, as those which are within the council's control, responsive to the issues raised and deliverable in a timely manner.

6. Alternative options considered

6.1. A large number of possible recommendations were suggested throughout the task group process, which were then refined in consultation with Members and officers. Section 6 of the report ('further issues raised') highlights a number of issues which, while relevant to the topic of deprivation, lay outside of the council's control.

7. Consultation and feedback

7.1. The task group heard extensively from a wide range of partners, stakeholders and officers in order to build a comprehensive picture of deprivation in Cheltenham.

7.2. Following the last formal meeting, further officers were consulted in order to ensure that the final recommendations were clear, within the council's control, responsive to the issues raised and deliverable in a timely manner.

8. Key risks

8.1. Scrutiny task groups are a key part of the work of Overview and Scrutiny, in line with the scrutiny arrangements required of all UK local authorities by the 2000 Local

Government Act. Scrutiny arrangements must be properly resourced and supported by Members and officers, or risk causing a democratic deficit and reputational damage.

Report author:

Harry Mayo, Democracy Officer

[Contact Bev Thomas, bev.thomas@cheltenham.gov.uk 01242 264 246]

Appendices:

1. Risk Assessment
2. Scrutiny Topic Registration Form
3. One Page Strategy
4. Scrutiny Task Group report
5. Additional information on the Scrutiny Task Group's recommendations

Background information:

[Overview and Scrutiny, 28th February 2022 - Tackling multiple deprivation](#)

Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Risk ref	Risk description	Risk owner	Impact score (1-5)	Likelihood score (1-5)	Initial raw risk score (1 - 25)	Risk response	Controls / Mitigating actions	Control / Action owner	Deadline for controls/ actions
1	If scrutiny arrangements are not properly resourced and supported by Members and officers, they may not be successful in delivering the outcomes required.	Democratic Services, O&S	3	3	9	Reduce	Ensure we take every opportunity to review our scrutiny arrangements and provide Member and officer training. Optimise the use of existing resources within scrutiny arrangements.	Democratic Services, O&S	N/A
2	If the authority fails to comply with scrutiny requirements, it will be in breach of the 2000 Local Government Act.	Democratic Services, O&S	5	1	5	Reduce	Maintain strong scrutiny arrangements, reviewing the effectiveness of O&S on a regular basis.	Democratic Services, O&S	N/A
3	If scrutiny is not carrying out the full extent of its role, i.e. pre- and post-decision, there is a risk of a democratic deficit and reputational damage.	Democratic Services, O&S	3	3	9	Reduce	Review the effectiveness of O&S on a regular basis, and continue to encourage public participation in the process.	Democratic Services, O&S	N/A

