



Report of the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities

Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee – 26 July 2021

Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Strategy Revision

Purpose:	To revise the Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Strategy 2017 - 2020.
Policy Framework:	Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy Welsh Government's Financial Inclusion Strategy Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Socio-Economic Duty 2021
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) It is recommended that the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee approve the Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Strategy Revision as set out in Section 2 of this report, as a starting point to coproduce a final version with our partners and communities.
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1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Tackling Poverty – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential, is one of Swansea Council's six Corporate Priorities for 2021-2022.
- 1.2 Swansea Council's current Tackling Poverty Strategy – 'Working towards prosperity for all in Swansea 2017-2020' (See Appendix A), was due for review during the 2020/21 financial year. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that resources were reprioritised to the Council's response to the

pandemic. Subsequently, the planned revision of the strategy was delayed.

- 1.3 Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy 2017-2020 sets out its commitment to reducing poverty and the impacts that poverty has upon its residents.
- 1.4 This report presents the main headlines of the strategy together with the draft priorities for a revised strategy. This report recommends that this will form the basis of a starting position with which to coproduce a revised Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Strategy with our partners and communities.

2. Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Strategy Revision

2.1 The current strategy establishes an approach in which tackling poverty is everybody's business across the council.

2.2 The current strategy defines poverty as:

- Income below the Minimum Income Standard. (The Minimum Income Standard is based on what the public think people need for an acceptable minimum standard of living as researched by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation)
- Inadequate access to necessary services of good quality.
- Inadequate opportunity or resource to join in with social, cultural, leisure and decision making activities.

2.3 The current strategy establishes a Vision for Swansea as follows:

The Council aspires to achieve a Swansea in which:

- Income poverty is not a barrier to doing well at school, having a healthy and vibrant life, developing skills and qualifications and having a fulfilling occupation.
- Service poverty is tackled through targeting resources where they have the most effect, with decision about that made in conjunction with service users.
- Participation is enjoyed by all our residents, who have the opportunity and resources to join in with social, cultural and leisure activities and decision-making.
- Residents maximise their income and get the most out of the money that they have.
- Residents avoid paying the 'poverty premium', the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials such as fuel and transport.
- Barriers to employment such as transportation and childcare are removed.

2.4 Based on the experience of implementing the strategy since 2017, learning from the Covid response and the current social, economic and environmental position; it is proposed that the existing 'everybody's

business' approach (2.1), definition of poverty (2.2) and vision for Swansea (2.3), together with the following draft priorities for the delivery of the revised strategy, form the basis for coproduction of the strategy:

1. Enabling strong families and communities.
2. Improve educational attainment, routes to further education, training or employment and opportunities for learning throughout life.
3. Improve access to affordable and secure homes.
4. Improve opportunities for participation for all including social, cultural, leisure activities and coproduced solutions.
5. Maximise incomes and reduce costs.
6. Promote economic growth that is accessible, inclusive and benefits everyone.
7. Support people to improve their employability, find work that pays fairly and progress in work.
8. Reduce health inequalities and improve well-being.
9. Support people in crisis or risk of crisis / most vulnerable.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee approve the Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Strategy Revision as set out in Section 2 of this report, as a starting point to coproduce a final version with our partners and communities.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the public sector duties relating to equality and socio-economic inequalities as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010 , the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic,

social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.4 An IIA has commenced and will be finalised prior to taking to Council.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it may lead to decisions being taken at a later date that may have costs attached. Any such costs will need to be managed within departmental resources at that time with due regard to the Council's medium term financial plan.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 as well as its duties under the Equality Act (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 .

Appendices:

Appendix A A Poverty Strategy for Swansea 2017 - 2020