



Title: **Torbay's Story 2011- 2020 Child Poverty Strategy – A Call for Action**

Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

To: **Mayor**

Date: **12 July 2012**

Wards Affected: **All**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to Budget: **No**

Change to Policy Framework: **No**

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1. What are we trying to achieve?

- 1.1 Torbay requires a Child Poverty Strategy and action plan to ensure that council services, communities and local partners take responsibility and contribute to eradicating child poverty in the Bay. The Plan will specifically tackle the hot spots identified in the needs assessment to ensure that we break the cycle and today's children do not become the parents of poor children tomorrow. Children born into poverty are more likely to die in the first year of life and will have a substantially shorter life span than other children. We need to create the opportunities, make the connections, and change the thinking and behaviour **Now** to change for the better the future aspirations of our families by 2020.

Recommendation(s) for decision

- 1.2 That Torbay's Story 2011 – 2020 Child Poverty strategy – A Call for Action (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) be supported.

2. Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Child Poverty Strategy will underpin the approach of the Council and its partners in the long term improvement of outcomes for children, young people and families. A pro-active response is already encapsulated within the Children's Plan and the Children's Partnership Improvement Plan and discussions are currently underway to consider the impact of the Local Plan (The Plan for Torbay to 2031) on the needs of children within their communities. The breaking of the cycle of poverty will be fundamental to creating positive outcomes and long term will provide a major contribution to the long term regeneration of Torbay.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 None

4. Combined Impact Assessment (CIA)

The CIA is a tool which helps officers to fully consider the impact of the proposed decisions on the community.

I confirm that a Combined Impact Assessment has been completed and is available as a background document on request from the report author.

For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to the supporting information attached.

Richard Williams, Director of Children's Services

Supporting Information

5. Introduction and History

- 5.1 The Child Poverty Act 2010 reflects the Coalition government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

It places a statutory duty on all partners to develop a joint strategy that identifies measures being taken. As part of these arrangements a local needs assessment must be undertaken and published, which identifies local factors which drive and impact on child poverty.

6. Summary of Combined Impact Assessment

6.1 Equalities, Consultation and Engagement

In relation to the Council's requirement to have due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations the Combined Impact Assessment outlined the following potential consultation and equalities implications and impacts:

- (a) Communities playing an active role in tackling poverty and helping each other gain a wider understanding and support network within their own communities. Agencies, partners and business units will be asked to demonstrate how they are making a difference and be accountable to the Child Poverty Commission (which will include family representation)
- (b) Impact of proposal will be monitored by Child Poverty Commission/ Action Plan to be developed. It is proposed that the impacts of Child Poverty be considered as a equalities statement for future reports and proposals.

6.4 Identified Risks

Risk of poverty fatigue and that levels will increase across Torbay.

- 6.5** In light of 6.1 to 6.4 above, the following course of action is recommended:

Outcome 1: No major change required - CIA has not identified any potential for adverse impact in relation to equalities, and all opportunities to promote equality, the environment and economic development have been taken.

7. Summary of resource implications

7.1 None

Documents available in members' rooms

Background Papers

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

- Combined Impact Assessment (CIA)
- Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Appendices

Appendix 1 Child Poverty Strategy – A Call for Action
Appendix 2 Child Poverty Needs Assessment
Appendix 3 Child Poverty Commission draft Terms of Reference