

Committee	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Unrestricted		
<b>Report of:</b> Lutfur Ali, Assistant Chief Executive		<b>Title:</b> <i>Report of the Scrutiny Review Working Group on Child Poverty</i>		
<b>Originating Officer(s):</b> Jebin Syeda Scrutiny Policy Officer		<b>Ward(s) affected: All</b>		

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report submits the report and recommendations of the Child Poverty Working Group for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Endorse the draft report.
- 2.2 That the Service Head for Scrutiny and Equalities be authorised to agree the final report before submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Scrutiny Lead for One Tower Hamlets.

---

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

#### **LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Background paper

Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 A Working Group was established in October 2008 to consider a community leadership model which contributes to creating One Tower Hamlets using Child Poverty as a case study.
- 3.2 The Working Group set out to do the following:
- Consider key issues related to child poverty including:
    - English for Speakers of other Languages and courses to improve literacy and numeracy skills;
    - Access to employment, including childcare provisions;
    - The London Child Poverty Pledge;
    - The Employment Strategy;
    - The role of Job Centre Plus.
  - Use Members' experience to develop a greater understanding, through research, focus groups and interviews, of the experience of local people living in poverty;
  - Establish how the research and casework element of Members' work can be used to help develop the Tackling Child Poverty Strategy;
  - Access information available to Members to exercise their community leadership role;
  - Develop and test and evaluate a model of community leadership role for strengthening One Tower Hamlets;
- 3 The Working Group undertook a number of focus groups and one-to-one interviews (One Tower Hamlets Interviews) with residents to examine the barriers faced in gaining employment. The Interviews in particular attempted to capture the experiences and barriers for residents from a range of backgrounds. These have been useful in framing recommendations of this review.
- 3.2 The report with recommendations is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.5 Once agreed, the Working Group's report and action plan will be submitted to Cabinet for a response to the recommendations.

### **4. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)**

The Council is required by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions. The attached report contains recommendations in relation to Child Poverty. It is open to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree the report for presentation to Cabinet.

### **5. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer**

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report.

## **6. One Tower Hamlets considerations**

- 6.1 All the recommendations in this report have One Tower Hamlets implications as the intended outcome is tackling inequality and strengthening community leadership, these are all at the heart of One Tower Hamlets aspirations.
- 6.2 Recommendations B, F, I and M specifically ask that support be provided to groups identified as particularly vulnerable.

## **7. Risk Management**

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the Working Group's report or recommendations.