



## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**15 JULY 2019**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE:**

#### **SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – FOOD POVERTY**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake a review regarding food poverty.
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Dennis Meredith (Chair); Councillor Cathrine Russell (Deputy Chair); Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Cali, Roberts and Smith.
- 1.3 At the first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee's approval.

### **2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required objectives and outcomes should be:

#### **Objectives**

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

#### **Key Lines of Enquiry**

- What are the impacts of food poverty?
- How widespread is food poverty in the borough?
- What strategic approaches are in existence to tackle food poverty?
- What approaches are in existence to reduce people's dependency on food aid, such as Food Banks?

- To receive an understanding of how food poverty is addressed
- To evaluate how the Borough Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to food poverty
- To identify the specific issues relating to food poverty
- To identify the existence and impact of “holiday hunger”
- To identify how food poverty differs across the borough of Northampton and the reasons for this

### **Outcomes Required**

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of food poverty in Northampton.
- To make recommendations on how the specific issues in relation to food poverty are dealt with from now until the new Unitary Authority.

2.2 The Panel agreed that the Community Organiser, Emmanuel Church and the Chair, Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network be approached suggesting that they are co-opted to this Scrutiny Review.

2.3 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

#### June 2019 – January 2020

- 5 June 2019 - Scoping meeting
- 17 July - Evidence gathering
- 25 September - Evidence gathering
- 20 November - Evidence gathering
- 14 January 2020 - Approval of the final report

2.4 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, as required.

2.5 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00 pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.

2.6 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol, the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty, as attached at Appendix A.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Dennis Meredith Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty

25 June 2019