

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

MEMBERS' REFERENCE GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members' Reference Group Objectives

The Reference Group will monitor the implementation of the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to ensure that it benefits those most in need.

Method of Approach

The Reference Group will carry out its function by:

- (a) Examining relevant data and information, to ensure the Anti-Poverty Strategy is meeting its objectives and having an impact on those most in need.
- (b) Encouraging input from the Council's partners, organisations focussing on poverty issues, and those with lived experience of poverty, to identify any gaps or areas for further focus;
- (c) Monitoring the Action Plan and reporting on progress annually to Council; and
- (d) Analysing the information collected to reach robust conclusions on the success of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, making recommendations for any changes to Council as necessary.

Membership of Reference Group

- 7 Members of Council, on a non-political basis, if possible, ensuring a gender and geographic balance; Members should have the time and energy to monitor the implementation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, giving guidance to officers and reporting to Council as necessary

Chair and Vice-Chair

The Reference Group shall appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group.

Appropriate Officer support will be provided to the Group.

Scope

The Reference Group will:

1. Monitor the extent of poverty in the Scottish Borders, and the impact of the implementation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, taking account of –
 - Economic poverty and income
 - Fuel poverty

- Housing poverty
 - Food poverty
 - Digital poverty
 - Impact on family and community health and wellbeing
2. Hear from other organisations and individuals to develop an understanding of the impact of poverty, particularly in rural areas, and how the actions within the Anti-Poverty Action Plan are assisting those in need.
 3. Invite relevant individuals/organisations to attend meetings and provide information.
 4. Consider any gaps in actions/resources to ensure the Anti-Poverty Strategy is successfully implemented.
 5. Monitor the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to ensure they remain appropriate to address identified current or emerging issues as well as being both realistic and achievable, evaluating their impact and success on a regular basis.

Meetings

It is anticipated that the Reference Group will meet on a quarterly basis (as a minimum) to allow sufficient time for the impact of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to be monitored and evaluated.