

 Executive – 2nd March 2011		Agenda Item No. 7
Title	Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy	
For further information about this report please contact	Bill Hunt Deputy Chief Executive (01926) 456014 bill.hunt@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Chief Executive's Office	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	n/a	
Background Papers	Draft Strategy Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Life Chances: Consulting on a New Approach consultation paper WCC Child Poverty Summits background papers	
Contrary to the policy framework:	No	
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No	
Key Decision?	Yes	
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	Author	Bill Hunt
Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
CMT		Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance		Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		Cllr. Doody
Consultation Undertaken		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the Council's statutory 'duty to co-operate' responsibility resulting from the Child Poverty Act 2010 and the process for the adoption of a county-wide Child Poverty Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Executive note the Council's responsibilities under the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 2.2 That Executive recommend to Council the approval of the draft county-wide Child Poverty Strategy, attached as Appendix Two.
- 2.3 That Executive delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any minor changes to the final version of the Strategy.
- 2.4 That Executive notes that, subject to approval of this strategy, Fit for the Future will be amended accordingly.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Child Poverty Act received Royal Assent in March 2010. A short guide to the Act is attached as Appendix One, with the main provisions summarised at page 3 of the appendix.
- 3.2 The Act requires English local authorities and other 'delivery partners' to work together to tackle child poverty, conduct a local needs assessment, produce a child poverty strategy and take child poverty into account in the production and revision of their Sustainable Community Strategies.
- 3.3 In two-tier local authority areas the designated local authority will be the County Council. District and borough councils have a statutory 'duty to co-operate' with the lead authority to enable it to discharge its responsibilities.
- 3.4 In Warwickshire the County Council (WCC) has been working with the district and borough councils and other partners to produce a county-wide Child Poverty Strategy. A series of child poverty summits were held across the county during November and December 2010 which led to the development of the 4 key themes within the draft strategy which aims to reduce the number of children living in poverty within Warwickshire by 2020:
- Creating Employment Opportunities to help move people out of poverty
 - Early Intervention: in particular the role of Children's Centres in helping to break the cycle of poverty
 - Improving Financial Capability and Financial Awareness
 - Addressing Housing Needs
- 3.5 The draft strategy is attached at Appendix Two. WCC intend to present it to their Cabinet for approval in March to meet the requirement for it to be published by the end of that month.
- 3.6 The Senior Management Team will be considering the draft strategy at their meeting on 9 February 2011 and a verbal report will be made to Executive if

any changes to the draft are to be proposed as a result of those discussions. Executive may also wish to propose amendments hence the recommendation for final approval of any amended strategy to be delegated, if necessary.

- 3.7 Once approved the application of the strategy would be progressed in this district through the Warwick Partnership Executive Group (WPEG), the multi-agency group responsible for the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the internal service planning process. Our responsibilities under the Act and our commitment to practical steps aimed at delivery of the 4 key themes within the Child Poverty Strategy will be reflected in future Service Area Plans and any revisions to the WPEG workplan or the Sustainable Community Strategy itself.
- 3.8 Fit for the Future contains a table of the strategies this Council will pursue. If this strategy is approved the table will be updated accordingly.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The Act places a statutory responsibility on the Council and no alternative options have therefore been considered.
- 4.2 Whilst, Executive could decide not to endorse the draft Child Poverty Strategy this would be contrary to our 'duty to co-operate'. It would, however, be consistent with our responsibilities to suggest and pursue amendments to the draft strategy if members considered this to be necessary.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 There are no budget implications arising from this report. The operational delivery of the key themes within the strategy document would be progressed within existing resources as set out in future Service Area Plans

6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The Council's Vision, that guides all its actions, is: Warwick District – a great place to live, work and visit.
- 6.2 Delivery of the Child Poverty Strategy is an integral part of the delivery of the Vision.