

## **Comments of the Joint Scrutiny Briefing 18 August 2020**

### **Introduction**

On 18 August 2020 a joint scrutiny briefing was held to present the report and recommendations of the Brent Poverty Commission. Members of both of the Council's scrutiny committees were invited to attend. The report was presented by Lord Best, with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform also in attendance to contribute and answer questions from the committee.

At the end of the meeting, scrutiny members agreed seventeen proposals for Cabinet to take into account in its response to the Poverty Commission's report.

The agreed proposals from the joint briefing of the scrutiny committees are summarised below.

### **Poverty and the Coronavirus Pandemic**

- Proposal 1. Cabinet should consider emphasising the connection between poverty and ill health and poverty and poor health go together. Cabinet should consider emphasising the relationship between air quality and poverty and respiratory disease including COVID-19.
- Proposal 2. Cabinet should consider linking poverty to the climate emergency work and specific additional actions on climate change action.

### **Housing**

- Proposal 3. Cabinet should consider the implications of new White Paper on planning.
- Proposal 4. Cabinet should emphasise the importance of housing provision and affordability to poverty.

### **Economy and Jobs**

- Proposal 5. Cabinet should consider the significance of economics and the local economy, for example, how Council spending in the local economy may have a knock on effect and consider what more the Council can do further to support the local economy and employment.
- Proposal 6. Cabinet should consider regeneration programmes potential opportunities to address the poverty agenda and attracting businesses into Brent.
- Proposal 7. Cabinet should consider what are we doing to help young people to utilise employment opportunities from living in the city.

## **Tackling Financial Exclusion and Local Welfare**

- Proposal 8. In assessing the percentage in extreme poverty Cabinet should consider the breakdown of the ethnic makeup of those who are likely to suffer from extreme poverty?
- Proposal 9. Cabinet should consider gender specific issues for poverty, including specific issues for women in poverty.
- Proposal 10. Cabinet should consider the impact of poverty specifically on children and young people and including specifically on early years.

## **Going Forward**

- Proposal 11. Cabinet should consider having poverty alleviation as poverty performance indicators and clear visible metrics.
- Proposal 12. Cabinet should consider how the Council can embed poverty alleviation as a priority for the Council, and how this is coordinated across all the main Council strategies.
- Proposal 13. Cabinet should consider including poverty implications at the end of Council and Cabinet reports in a similar way to how legal and financial implications are reported on.
- Proposal 14. Cabinet agree the recommendations set out in the report of the Poverty Commission and the Cabinet agree an implementation plan to provide specific and measureable outcomes for each agreed recommendation and define a timetable for the implementation of each agreed recommendation, with specific goals for the delivery of each.
- Proposal 15. Cabinet should consider bringing the report of the Poverty Commission before the full Council.
- Proposal 16. That the report of the Poverty Commission and the Cabinet's implementation plan be cross referenced to strategic policy implications for the Council and community partners, identifying any areas for a review of the Council and community polices and strategies, including the Council's main strategies.
- Proposal 17. That implementation of the Poverty Commission recommendations and any plan agreed by the Cabinet be brought to the Council's scrutiny committees to oversee their implementation and provide a forum for evaluation of their impact after six months, one year and annual intervals to review the implementation of the agreed recommendations of the Commission.