

# PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY

**Submitted by :** Mike Allen

**Item for Consideration:** Review of Poverty reduction actions by EDDC in 2020 to date

**Expected outcome** (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas): Clear understanding of extent and issues dealt with by EDDC and Partner Agencies during the first wave of Covid and to assess if changes are needed

**Priority for matter to be considered:**

High (up to 3 months)  Medium (3-6 months)  Low (over 9 months).

Basis on which priority has been set: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)**

- a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control
- b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review
- c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review
- d) It is a major proposal for change
- e) It is an issue raised via complaints received
- f) It is an area of public concern
- g) It is an area of poor performance
- h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?

All objectives

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?)

Yes by end September at Scrutiny on this proposal and for Council to review the report in December in order to effectively manage any further pandemic or epidemic impacts on employment and wellbeing of residents

## Scope of work for scrutiny

Broad topic area	To produce an in-depth report on the Poverty management activities of East Devon District Council to include all partner engagement and their relationship with the council.
Specific areas to explore within topic area	<p>1. The extent to which homelessness and poverty has been managed in the East Devon area in 2020 to date and what mechanisms are in place to assess success/failure</p> <p>2 Public perception, transparency and reputation of the Council in reducing Poverty</p> <p>3. Funding - explore costs of poverty reduction actions by team and including officer time - what other funding comes from the Public Sector?</p> <p>4. Voluntary Sector - explore what help the voluntary sector has provided in 2020 to help reduce poverty</p> <p>5. The way forward - how other councils reduce poverty - other examples of poverty strategies - see 'desired outcomes of the review'</p>
Areas NOT covered by review	Individual resident examples of poverty reduction Individual contracts between the council and contractors or suppliers
Desired outcomes of the review	Recommendations on a positive and transparent way forward for EDDC to improve its work to reduce poverty, that has the confidence of East Devon Councillors and residents.
Who should be consulted to obtain evidence (eg ward member, officers, stakeholders)	<p>East Devon Officers in Finance, Housing and other functions</p> <p>East Devon Planning Officers</p> <p>EDDC Economic Development Manager</p> <p>Public Sector Partners such as DWP/JobCentre Plus, Devon County Council, Devon CCG</p> <p>Voluntary sector organisations in East Devon dealing with poverty reduction such as Citizen's Advice Bureau or Food Banks</p> <p>Chambers of Commerce representatives</p> <p>Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>Blackdown Hills AONB</p> <p>Federation of Small Businesses</p> <p>EDDC Chief Executive and Finance Lead officers</p> <p>EDDC planning policy manager and Strategic Lead</p> <p>EDDC leader and EDDC Strategic Lead for Housing</p> <p>Members of the public</p>
What evidence already exists (consultation, good practice examples)	
What experts are needed to help with the review	
What other resources are needed	
Undertaken by the committee or is a TAFF required	Task and finish forum comprising:
Timescale including start date	First meeting: October 2020 then 4-5 meetings to report December for action before Christmas
Who are the recommendations being reported to	Scrutiny committee before going to Overview or cabinet/council.

/continued

## **Members are requested to provide information on the following:-**

What do you wish to achieve from the review?

A clear understanding of the effects of the Covid pandemic on unemployment and poverty in East Devon Authority Area and the extent of problems anticipated in 2021 and beyond

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?

Certainly and failure to review current progress and approaches would be improper

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?

It is intended to do both

**Additional information** – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

- A. It is a district level function over which the district has some control and is one where we already have a policy, but we also need to take account of Partner actions and the extent of our working together cost-effectively
- B. It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review because since our policy approach has been assessed at Overview there has been no report, no Committee set up and there has been a Covid-19 epidemic devastating our economy and social/health services
- C. It is an area of public concern because hardly a day goes by without a discussion in press and Councillor interactions with residents.
- D. This topic is of critical importance to residents of the District since between 15% and 20% are expected to lose their jobs according to latest County-wide Partner estimates

**Please return completed form to Democratic Services.**

### **MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS**

**Reviewing / scrutinising the Council's poverty reduction actions in 2020 with a view to helping make improvements in poverty reduction is within the scope of the Committee if it is so minded. It should be noted that a Poverty Working Panel has been established with a view to developing the Council's Poverty Strategy and therefore the Committee will need to be mindful of its role *viz a viz* the role of the Panel and the Overview Committee in developing policy. Findings from reviewing / scrutinising actions in 2020 should be fed into the work of the Panel and / or Overview to inform the development of the Strategy.**

**Date: 4.9.20**