

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Muldowney

This Council notes that (1) a recent report to Government by the Social Mobility Commission reported that nearly a third of all children now live in poverty, with 500,000 children in England being plunged into poverty since 2012; and (2) the Council's Child Poverty Strategy lapsed in 2020 and needs to be refreshed. Council agrees with the Social Mobility Commission that (1) child poverty is a preventable problem and (2) agrees to undertake a rapid review of child poverty in the borough in order to inform a refresh of its Child Poverty Strategy.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The motion relates to a matter affecting the authority's area and relates to a matter in respect of which the Council has a relevant function.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 removed from law the Child Poverty Act 2010 which placed certain responsibilities on local authorities and its partners to reduce child poverty. However child poverty is a cross cutting issue for services provided by the Council. Therefore the Council may rely on other powers available to mitigate child poverty through service provision.

A Cabinet decision would be required to approve an updated Child Poverty Reduction Plan. It should be noted that Council cannot impose a direct instruction for Cabinet to make such a decision.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

This was the subject of a recent report to Overview and Scrutiny. In discussion with Public Health, with other pressures from the Covid response, additional resource would be required to refresh the strategy at this time.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes