

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

SHORT REVIEW – THE COUNCIL’S APPROACH TO POVERTY

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	POST TITLE	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
1. The Council develops a clearer overarching approach to addressing poverty, including consideration of how this is best defined and framed (for example 'poverty' or more broadly 'social inclusion'), and supported by a strategy or a shared corporate ambition.	Implement the Making Middlesbrough Thrive initiative by embedding consideration of deprivation, inequality and social inclusion within Directorate Service Plans, corporate planning, performance management and partnership governance arrangements, creating a shared corporate approach to addressing poverty while enabling services and partners to respond flexibly to local need.	Head of Chief Executive's Department	Within existing resources	December 2026
2. If the Council chose the option of a mission statement, it should improve coordination and alignment across existing policies, strategies, and service areas, to develop a consistent approach to tackling poverty and its wider impacts, such as social exclusion.	Implement the Making Middlesbrough Thrive initiative to align existing strategies, Directorate Service Plans and partnership arrangements into a coordinated, place-based response to deprivation, inequality and social exclusion, supported by the development of a Partnership Strategy to strengthen collaboration, accountability and shared delivery across the wider system.	Head of Chief Executive's Department	Within existing resources	December 2026

	Engage with the Place Leaders Partnership to develop a shared strategic response to deprivation in Middlesbrough, aligning partner resources, influence and commitments to address the challenges highlighted by the IMD data.	Corporate Director for Regeneration and Housing	Within existing resources	December 2026
3. The Council considers its performance management in regards to how it tackles poverty, including whether it needs to develop clear benchmarks to understand and demonstrate how its efforts to tackle poverty have impact.	Enhance corporate performance management arrangements to monitor commitments and outcomes relating to deprivation and inequality through agreed performance indicators, corporate reporting and governance processes, supported by evidence of need to inform decision-making, align activity and demonstrate impact.	Head of Chief Executive's Department	Within existing resources	March 2027
4. As part of Recommendation 3, an annual progress report should come to OSB.	Report annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on progress against the agreed actions to provide assurance, demonstrate impact and identify opportunities for further improvement in reducing deprivation and inequality.	Head of Chief Executive's Department	Within existing resources	Annually (July)