

Appendix C Progress being made against the 32 commitments.

Priority 1 - Support people who are struggling in poverty right now

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
<p>Priority 1 Support people who are struggling in poverty right now</p>	<p>Commit resource and funding to deliver the strategy and resultant action plan, focusing on those most in need.</p>	<p>Map existing resource/offer and identify gaps.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Communities team have begun asset mapping - Local Infrastructure Organisations currently sense checking where we have got to – providing high level details of each of the assets mapped in readiness for website/app/directory of services development. Warm Welcoming Spaces impact analysis will help inform this.</p>
		<p>Understand needs of underserved communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Poverty Truth Commission funded to continue to gather lived experience, feeding into the development of the action plans/delivery of the strategy.</p>

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
<p>Priority 1 Support people who are struggling in poverty right now</p>			<p>Community Engagement network mapped – against specific groups, including vulnerable groups and against the LAP areas.</p> <p>Engagement with specific minority communities has begun e.g. non moored boating communities.</p> <p>Warm Welcoming Spaces impact analysis on minority communities is helping to shape wraparound services.</p> <p>Task and finish group has delivered recommendations on approach to immigration support and advice.</p>
		Fund VCSE organisations effectively.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Warm Welcoming Spaces Summer and Winter Grants programme.</p> <p>Capacity funding allocated to VCS HSF 3 distribution partners.</p> <p>Funding approved for the commissioning of the Community Training Partnership.</p> <p>Longer Term funding being put into place – through existing direct grants.</p>

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
			Grant framework approved by Cabinet – 11 April – includes a discretionary grant pot, Social Action/Volunteers pot, Community Cohesion Pot.
		Target those at highest risk of hardship.	Ongoing. Household Support Fund - distribution to residents and investment in foodbanks and food Larders.
	Improve communication and awareness of information and support for those who are in need.	Develop communications strategy.	Complete. Cost of Living webpage and promotion via cards/leaflets – regular use of social media and promotion of support through community networks e.g. Warm Welcoming Spaces, social prescribers, VCS partners etc.
		Ensure awareness and easy access to services/offers.	Ongoing. See above.

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
	Increase access to affordable credit, free welfare and debt advice.	Invest in advice services.	Ongoing. Money and Debt Advisors one year (23/24) funding in place for additional accredited advisors (4.4 FTEs). Money and Debt Transformational Change Team working towards long term solutions.
		Work with providers of rights advice services to improve access.	Ongoing. Community Training Partnership was awarded in March 2023 for a 2 year period to The Hope Centre and Community Law Services. Warm Welcoming Spaces Wraparound approach.
		Enhance the awareness of affordable credit and savings options.	Requires further action: Money and Debt Transformational Change Team working to 3 workstreams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal Restructure 2. VCS Contracts 3. Pathways for residents

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			Business case currently being prepared to fund a new post of Financial Inclusion Officer, supporting the delivery of the change team's work, and providing wider strategic direction around financial wellbeing.
		Review the Council's debt collection practices.	

Priority 2 - Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
<p>Priority 2 Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place</p>	<p>Commit resource and funding to deliver the strategy and resultant action plan, focusing on those most in need.</p>	<p>Pay WNC directly employed staff above RLW.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
		<p>Encourage employers in WN to pay RLW.</p>	<p>No direct actions taken - but there are 39 accredited real living wage employers in West Northamptonshire (as at July 2022).</p>
		<p>Ensure people receive benefits entitled to.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Money and Debt Advisors one year (23/24) funding in place for additional accredited advisors. Money and Debt Transformational Change Team working towards long term solutions.</p>

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
<p style="text-align: center;">Priority 2 Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place</p>	<p>Commit resource and funding to deliver the strategy and resultant action plan, focusing on those most in need.</p>	<p>Promote social mobility by raising skills and improving access to training.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Fledgling Learning and Skills Consortium created in partnership with key stakeholders including University of Northampton, Northampton College, Adult Learning Services - to map existing offer of courses to raise skills and training. Anchor Institutions working in partnership to break down barriers for Care Leavers' entering employment.</p>
	<p>Meet housing need with good quality social housing and enable the private rented sector to be an effective housing contributor.</p>	<p>Develop a new WN housing strategy.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
		<p>Support development of new homes.</p>	
		<p>Ensure rent levels support local housing need.</p>	
		<p>Encourage energy efficiency measures in private rental sector.</p>	

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
<p>Priority 2 Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place</p>		Develop new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.	Ongoing. Strategy under development.
		Improve alternative housing options and quality private rent.	
	<p>Build resilient and supportive communities through investment in services that support health and social wellbeing, working in partnership with communities to develop local assets and build community resource.</p>	Listen to residents and facilitate community action.	
		Promote place-based approaches at neighbourhood level.	Ongoing. Well Northants Programme – asset/strength based community development – community development officers attending LAPs. Neighbourhood working groups established in priority areas.
		Asset-based approaches - build on strengths of communities.	As above.
		Engage in genuine co-production.	Ongoing. Well Northants Programme – World cafes, community engagement, development of co-produced action

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			<p>plans, participatory budgeting programme. Task and finish group has delivered recommendations on approach to immigration support and advice.</p>
		<p>Ensure access to health improvement/preventative services.</p>	
		<p>Work with those with experience of poor MH to support needs.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Happy Café project promoted and linked in with the Warm Welcoming Spaces. Mental Health identified as a major need through the Warm Welcoming Spaces planning for 23/24. Mental Health Training Framework, Promoting MH employment support offer across Supported employment, primary care and Public Health – being developed. Mental Health needs assessment undertaken with our foodbanks and food larders.</p>

Priority 3 - Continue to influence the government and other national organisations to get a better deal for West Northamptonshire

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
<p>Priority 3 Continue to influence the government and other national organisations to get a better deal for West Northamptonshire</p>	<p>Engage members of parliament and central government departments, to advocate for equality and fairness to get the best deal for our communities.</p>	<p>Continue to work together across agencies/political parties.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Cross party Anti-Poverty Oversight Board. operates well. Health and Wellbeing Board engaged. LAP boards in place. Task and finish group - immigration support and advice.</p>
		<p>Continue work of oversight group.</p>	<p>Ongoing. The Anti- Poverty Strategy Oversight Board meets regularly to drive forward delivery of the strategy and its supporting action plan. It has met more frequently than originally envisaged due to the cost of living crisis.</p>
		<p>Develop campaign to highlight dangers high-cost credit, promote responsible lending.</p>	

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	Utilise the evidence base for action and share this to lever in funds both locally and nationally.	Work with University of Northampton to evaluate and undertake research.	
		Share learning on local best practice.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Attendance and contribution toward seminar - New Local/JRF workshop 2 on designing out deep poverty and destitution.</p> <p>Attended and contributed towards Joseph Rowntree Foundation Consultation on development of rethinking how tackle poverty.</p> <p>Contributed towards and attended launch of national report 'It's a no-brainer': Local authority funding for immigration legal advice in the UK' by Jo Wilding.</p> <p>Best practice learning shared with Newham Council, Wokingham Borough Council, Frimley ICS.</p>
		Create local area profiles.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Local Area Profiles created as part of the LAP development.</p>

Priority	Ambition	Commitment	Progress
		Learn from and act on recommendations of Poverty Truth Commission.	Ongoing.