

STOCKPORT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET– SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Socio-Economic Duty

Report to Cabinet

Date: 18 September 2024

Report of: (a) Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Sport

Key Decision: (b) N

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency (Mark with a Y if applicable)

Summary:

The socio-economic duty (SED), Part 1 of the Equality Act (2010), aimed to deliver better outcomes for those who experience this disadvantage. The duty states that certain public bodies, when making strategic decisions, must consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage. Although this section of the Act was passed with the rest of the Equality Act in 2010, it has never been enforced.

A number of local authorities in England, as well as the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales, have adopted the duty voluntarily. This report recommends the adoption of the SED in Stockport and outlines the intended steps to implementation.

Approval of this report by cabinet would mean that Stockport Council would voluntarily adopt the SED, and when making decisions:

Actively consider, at an appropriate level, what more can be done to reduce the inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, in any strategic decision-making or policy development context.

Comments/Views of the Cabinet Member: (c)

The Council's Fair and Inclusive programme is about tackling poverty and inequality. Our vision is that: "Stockport is a great, diverse place to live, where everyone can thrive". Just as our equality, diversity and inclusion priorities are set out in our published Equality Objectives, these proposed Anti-Poverty objectives set out our priorities for tackling poverty. Together, both sets of objectives encapsulate our Fair and Inclusive programme.

In March 2024, Cabinet adopted the Anti-Poverty Objectives 2024 – 2027. The voluntary adoption of the socio-economic duty and the establishment of an Anti-Poverty Network is the next stage in further deepening the council's commitment to tackling poverty in Stockport.

The report has been reviewed by the Communities & Transport Scrutiny Committee on 2 September 2024.

Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Member: (d)

Recommendation(s):

- (1) Cabinet notes the delivery of activity against the Anti-Poverty 2024 – 2027 objectives.
- (2) Cabinet adopts the socio-economic duty and approves the implementation stages.
- (3) The council will take socio-economic disadvantage into account in terms of its public sector equality duty.
- (4) The council continues to work with partner organisations across the borough on the development and implementation of the socio-economic duty.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): (e)

Communities & Transport Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): (f)

Contact person for accessing background papers and discussing the report

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'Urgent Business': (g)

No

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/ Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.
