

**POVERTY OF PLACE**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services; CIO4: Improving Partnership Working To Deliver 'One City'.**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To highlight to the Committee current research as regards poverty of place in relation to understanding community safety and the relationship with community cohesion.
- 1.1 To suggest that the Committee has a site visit to both an area where poverty of place is currently having an adverse impact and an area where environmental work has had a positive impact upon community cohesion.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In October 2009 the Committee received a report of the Diversity and Inclusion Manager recommending a site visit to look at areas where poverty of place is evident and also projects where it is being addressed.
- 2.2 Poverty of place is becoming increasingly important in understanding poverty in general and in particular child poverty.
- 2.3 It is linked to issues such as social and cultural capital which are being increasingly used as non-financial indicators of poverty, recognising that there is a need to broaden the definition of poverty beyond financial measures if we are to properly address its impact upon real lives.
- 2.4 Poverty of place refers to, for instance, the way the look of an area can increase fear of reducing opportunities to build bridging and linking social capital<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.5 Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that if an area suffers from poor environmental quality (litter, graffiti, unkempt patches of land, poorly maintained footpaths, boarded up buildings and so on) people are less likely to move about in or through that area. This means that despite there being services supplied relatively close to those who need them, the take up is poorer than anticipated.

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<sup>1</sup> Bridging and linking social capital refers to the links people and communities make beyond their closest family and neighbours, for instance to people in organisations or service providers who will help to encourage people to take up opportunities.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 That the Community and Safer Committee invite members of the Environment and Attractive Scrutiny Committee and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee to accompany them on a site visit to look at areas where poverty of place is evident and also projects where it is being addressed.

### **4. Background Papers**

Poverty of Place- Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Manager, October 2009

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