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<p>Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice</p>	

The purpose of this report is to present possible Terms of Reference for the Taskforce on Poverty.

At its September meeting the Community Services Committee proposed the establishment of a Taskforce on Poverty to identify and advocate for solutions to poverty. The Committee formed a Working Group, comprising Councillors and officials, to draft Terms of Reference for the Taskforce. It requested that this Working Group report back to the Committee at the November meeting.

The Working Group developed Terms of Reference for the Taskforce. It proposed that in pursuing the Terms of Reference the Taskforce should invite submissions, pursue its own inquiries, commission systematic studies, prepare interim reports and take such other actions to involve the people and agencies in Christchurch in its deliberations.

It is suggested that the Taskforce will receive professional advice from Council staff plus other government and non-government organisations. These advisers will be responsible for advising the Taskforce on trends in relation to the state of poverty in the different communities in Christchurch, including meaningful poverty indicators and the influence of different factors/policies. They will also provide advice on current and future strategies to address issues of poverty.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Terms of Reference (as attached) be adopted and that the working group, including the Mayor, be asked to establish the Taskforce.
 2. That in view of the importance of this issue, the Mayor lead the Taskforce.
 3. That members of the Community Services Committee be asked to submit suggestions for membership of the Taskforce.