

5. POVERTY TASK FORCE

The Policy Analyst provided an oral report on the Poverty Task Force. The Committee was advised that limited resources had resulted in a slow start. Two streams of work had been identified:

1. Positive community initiatives (ie identifying barriers and forming strategies to remove these).
2. Impact assessment (providing the Council with the tools to carry out the aims).

The Committee **decided** that the City Manager be requested to review the resources allocated to the Poverty Task Force.

The Director of Policy reports:

The Poverty Taskforce is currently one of the projects being led by the Senior Social Policy Analyst (Mary Richardson). In response to the Poverty Taskforce's and Community Services Committee's request, George Clark will provide a 10 hour a week dedicated support to the Taskforce for the rest of this financial year. A proposal for \$20,000 funding to continue providing some dedicated support to the Taskforce in the 2001/02 year is contained in the 'pink pages' of the draft annual plan for consideration as a new initiative.

The Poverty Taskforce is undertaking two new initiatives:

- Enhancing positive response: Identifying strategies to enhance community responses to poverty, including gaining a picture of the current community responses to poverty and ascertaining the critical success factors and the barriers.
- Development of social assessment processes: This links strongly with the Council's commitment to triple bottom line reporting and to ensuring that the resources we deploy are used to best effect.

Through the use of the Taskforce we are able to gain the benefit of input from community leaders and the expertise and research capability of the University.

It is anticipated that the work of the Taskforce will enable it to provide advice to the Council on the priorities for its social spending.