

### 3. REPORT ON POVERTY TASKFORCE

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the membership of the Taskforce on Poverty.

At its November meeting the Committee agreed to the establishment of a Taskforce on Poverty to identify and advocate for solutions to poverty. The Committee agreed to the attached Terms of Reference, which were developed by a Working Group comprising Councillors and officials. These were endorsed by the full Council.

The Working Group also identified a group of people to be approached to be on the Taskforce. It was agreed that the Taskforce comprise of four to five outside people, plus the Mayor and Chair of the Community Services Committee. The following people have been approached and have agreed to be on the Taskforce:

- Dr Sue Bagshaw
- Major Campbell Roberts
- Dr Paul Dalzeil
- Mark Solomon

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

It is also 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.

It has been identified that the initial focus of the Taskforce would be in two areas. First, reviewing the Council's programmes and policies with respect to their impacts on those on low incomes in Christchurch. Second, in strengthening relationships among key government and non-government agencies and organisations with responsibilities for addressing the causes and effects of poverty.

**Recommendation:** For information.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the Taskforce be asked to focus particularly on ensuring more effective integrated service delivery by Government agencies in Christchurch.