



REVIEW OF IN-WORK POVERTY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Overview

The Scrutiny Management Committee (the Committee) will review the current policies and strategies of the States of Guernsey relating to 'In-Work Poverty' and the effectiveness of their implementation; this will include issues related, but not limited, to the minimum wage, housing, access to healthcare, and supplementary-benefits.

Background

In 2003, the States of Guernsey considered a policy letter¹ for an 'anti-poverty strategy' which was advised by research from the Townsend Centre, University of Bristol. This strategy identified a number of areas for action, namely Benefit & Tax Measures, Education & Employment Services, Services for Older People & People with Disabilities, Crime Reduction Initiatives, Fiscal & Legislative Measures, and Housing under the (then) Corporate Housing Programme.

In the subsequently years, further policy letters have been considered within the States of Guernsey that include 1) The Minimum Wage (2007); 2) The Living Wage (2015), 4) Measuring Poverty & Income Inequality (2016) and, 5) Comprehensive Social Welfare Benefits Model² (2016).

The Committee believes that an area of this importance is an appropriate topic for an in-depth review.

Review Scope

The Committee will consider the following areas as part of its review:

1. The adequacy of Guernsey's minimum wage;
2. The impact of Guernsey's taxation and Social Security System on low income households;
3. The current and future provision of In-Work benefits;
4. The issues related to access to affordable healthcare provision;
5. The issues related to access to affordable housing; and
6. The impact of other States' charges on low income households.

Review Methodology

The Committee will form a 'Review Panel' tasked to consider this area which will include representation from the States of Guernsey and those independent of the Government. Following an initial desktop exercise to assess the current available information, the Review Panel will launch a formal consultation process involving the relevant elements of Government, the public and other interested parties on this matter. It is currently envisaged that public hearings may be held to gain additional clarity regarding the evidence submitted.

Outcome

A balanced, evidence-based Scrutiny Management Committee Report, together with the submissions provided and transcripts of any public hearing(s) will be released into the public domain. The Report will consider the current policies in place, the effectiveness of the implementation of those policies, any gaps in the existing policy framework, and any recommendations on future action.

¹ Following a Requête in March 1998

² Otherwise known as SWBIC