

END POVERTY PLEDGE

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Report Author:	Rod Brown
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

This report considers recommendation from the Community and Wellbeing Committee for the Council to make the End Poverty Pledge (EPP).

Recommendation (s)

The Council is asked to:

- (1) **Agree to sign the End Poverty Pledge, including the general statement and the specific commitments set out in sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this report.**
- (2) **Agree to nominate and authorise the Chief Executive to sign the End Poverty Pledge on behalf of the Council.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The End Poverty Pledge is intended to encourage organisations to make a commitment to help people in their communities who are struggling with financial insecurities.
- 1.2 The council has an important role to help those residents experiencing poverty.

2 Background

- 2.1 At their meeting on 13th January 2026, the Community and Wellbeing committee considered a report on the Council signing the End Poverty Pledge. At this meeting the committee resolved unanimously to:
 - 2.1.1 Recommend to Full Council to sign the End Poverty Pledge, including agreeing the general statement and specific commitments set out in section 4 of the report which are reproduced in sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this report.

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2.1.2 Recommend to Full Council to nominate and authorise the Chief executive to sign the Poverty Pledge on behalf of the council.

2.2 A link to the Communities and Wellbeing Committee report which was considered at the 13th January 2026 meeting, is included in section 7 of this report.

2.3 In that report, the General Statement for agreement was;

- As an organisation, we commit to do what we can to work towards a poverty-free future in Surrey:
- We will show respect and compassion to anyone who is struggling financially
- We will look at how our own actions can make life easier for people in financial hardship and help lift them out of poverty.
- We will join in wider efforts to raise awareness and tackle poverty in our local community.

2.4 Also in that report, the specific commitments were as set out in the table below:

End Poverty Pledge Theme	Commitment
LEADERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To offer training to all staff to raise awareness of poverty, so that staff are better able to support residents struggling with financial hardship• Implementation of the Real Living Wage for all council staff from April 2026
CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To explore how a review of the practical ways Bourne Hall could be made more accessible and welcoming to those living in poverty
ACCOUNTABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add poverty as a criterion to be considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken on all Epsom and Ewell Borough Council policies

3 Risk Assessment

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Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from being discriminated against on the basis of 9 protected characteristics in the workplace and in wider society. The new Government has committed to enacting Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 in England, making it a duty of all public bodies to consider the needs of those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in all decision-making. This duty is already required in Wales and Scotland. Signing and enacting the pledge will put the council ahead of the curve of this development nationally.
- 3.1.2 The proposals set out in this report are related to supporting those residents experiencing poverty, any impact from supporting the recommendation would have a positive impact on equality

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 The proposals set out in this report are related to supporting those residents experiencing poverty, any impact from supporting the recommendation would have a positive impact on crime and disorder.

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 The proposals set out in this report are related to supporting those residents experiencing poverty, any impact from supporting the recommendation would have a positive impact on safeguarding.

3.4 Dependencies

- 3.4.1 Working effectively with voluntary organisations within the borough

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Existing budget allocations are considered satisfactory to meet the financial implications from these proposals.
- 4.2 Any possible future changes or actions resulting from the signing of the End Poverty Pledge, general statement and the supporting commitments, would need to be subject to separate decision making, including identification any of required budget and be supported with a business case.
- 4.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Implementation of the End Poverty Pledge does not create any immediate additional financial burden for the Council. As noted in section 4.1, the actions proposed can be accommodated within existing approved budgets.

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Any future activity arising from the Pledge, including operational changes or new initiatives linked to these commitments, will require separate consideration and approval. This will include the development of a full business case, identification of funding sources, and assessment of any financial risks or ongoing budget implications.

The Council's approach, as set out in this report, is consistent with the requirement to ensure that decisions are financially sustainable, deliver value for money and comply with the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the commitments within this proposal
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from this report

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

Council's Key Priorities: The following Key Priorities are engaged.

From the 2020-24 corporate plan this proposal would support Safe and Well and Opportunity and Prosperity. It is not specifically included in the current strategic priorities for the council.

- 6.1 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.2 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None
- 6.3 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** Supporting residents who are vulnerable because of their poverty would be consistent with the objectives of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership.
- 6.4 **Partnerships:** With respect to supporting residents living in poverty, the council relies on effective partnerships with a number of key voluntary organisations, including The Good Company, Citizens Advice, Age Concern Epsom and Ewell.
- 6.5 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** There are no direct implications arising from this proposal.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

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- [Community and Wellbeing Committee report on End Poverty Pledge
13th January 2026](#)

Other papers:

- None