

Scrutiny committee

Date: Thursday, 23 February 2017

Time: 16:30

Venue: Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

All group pre-meeting briefing – 16:00 Mancroft Room

This is for members only and is not part of the formal scrutiny meeting which will follow at 16:30.

The pre-meeting is an opportunity for the committee to make final preparations before the start of the scrutiny committee meeting. The public will not be given access to the Mancroft room before 16:30.

Committee members:

Councillors:

Wright (chair)
Maguire (vice chair)
Bogelein
Bradford
Coleshill
Davis
Fullman
Grahame
Haynes
Malik
Manning
Packer
Peek

For further information please contact:

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Information for members of the public

Members of the public and the media have the right to attend meetings of full council, the cabinet and committees except where confidential information or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private.

For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.

Agenda

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- | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies

To receive apologies for absence | |
| 2 | Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public (notice to be given to committee officer in advance of the meeting in accordance with appendix 1 of the council's constitution) | |
| 3 | Declarations of interest

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting) | |
| 4 | Minutes
Purpose - To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017 | 7 - 10 |
| 5 | Scrutiny committee work programme 2016 - 17
Purpose - To note the scrutiny committee work programme 2016 - 17 | 11 - 26 |
| 6 | Causes of food poverty in Norwich
Purpose - To consider the evidence provided and identify the three main drivers of food poverty in Norwich, with a view to identify possible solutions at the meeting of the scrutiny committee on 23 March 2017. | 27 - 38 |

Date of publication: **Friday, 17 February 2017**

- T** is this, the right **TIME** to review the issue and is there sufficient officer time and resource available?
- O** what would be the **OBJECTIVE** of the scrutiny?
- P** can **PERFORMANCE** in this area be improved by scrutiny input?
- I** what would be the public **INTEREST** in placing this topic onto the work programme?
- C** will any scrutiny activity on this matter contribute to the council's activities as agreed to in the **CORPORATE PLAN**?

Once the TOPIC analysis has been undertaken, a joint decision should then be reached as to whether a report to the scrutiny committee is required. If it is decided that a report is not required, the issue will not be pursued any further. However, if there are outstanding issues, these could be picked up by agreeing that a briefing email to members be sent, or other appropriate action by the relevant officer.

If it is agreed that the scrutiny request topic should be explored further by the scrutiny committee a short report should be written for a future meeting of the scrutiny committee, to be taken under the standing work programme item, so that members are able to consider if they should place the item on to the work programme. This report should outline a suggested approach if the committee was minded to take on the topic and outline the purpose using the outcome of the consideration of the topic via the TOPIC analysis. Also the report should provide an overview of the current position with regard to the topic under consideration.

By using the flowchart, it is hoped that members and officers will be aided when giving consideration to whether or not the item should be added to the scrutiny committee work programme. This should help to ensure that the scope and purpose will be covered by any future report. The outcome of this should further assist the committee and the officers working with the committee to be able to produce informed outcomes that are credible, influential with SMART recommendations.

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound

Scrutiny committee and a protocol for those attending scrutiny

- All scrutiny committee meetings will be carried out in a spirit of mutual trust and respect
- Members of the scrutiny committee will not be subject to whipping arrangements by party groups
- Scrutiny committee members will work together and will attempt to achieve evidence based consensus and recommendations
- Members of the committee will take the lead in the selection of topics for scrutiny
- The scrutiny committee operates as a critical friend and offers constructive challenge to decision makers to support improved outcomes
- Invited attendees will be advised of the time, date and location of the meeting to which they are invited to give evidence
- The invited attendee will be made aware of the reasons for the invitation and of any documents and information that the committee wish them to provide
- Reasonable notice will be given to the invited attendee of **all** of the committees requirements so that these can be provided for in full at the earliest opportunity (there should be no nasty surprises at committee)
- Whenever possible it is expected that members of the scrutiny committee will share and plan questioning with the rest of the committee in advance of the meeting
- The invited attendee will be provided with copies of **all relevant** reports, papers and background information
- Practical arrangements, such as facilities for presentations will be in place. The layout of the meeting room will be appropriate
- The chair of the committee will introduce themselves to the invited attendee before evidence is given and; all those attending will be treated with courtesy and respect. The chair of the committee will make sure that all questions put to the witness are made in a clear and orderly manner



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16:30 to 18:50

26 January 2017

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Maguire (vice chair) Bogelein, Bradford, Coleshill, Fullman, Grahame, Haynes, Malik, Packer and Peek

Also present: Councillors Gail Harris (deputy leader and cabinet member for council housing) and Mike Stonard (cabinet member for resources and business liaison)

Apologies: Councillors Davis and Manning

1. Public questions / petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016

4. Scrutiny committee work programme 2015 -2016

The chair reminded members that an additional meeting of the scrutiny committee had been agreed for Thursday 6 April to look at the city accessibility item. He said that this meeting would also be the most appropriate to take the scrutiny annual review item to.

In response to a member's question, the vice chair said that he had compiled a list of speakers for the two meetings covering the topic of food poverty and these would be circulated to scrutiny committee members.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) agree to move the annual review item to the 6 April 2017 meeting; and
- 2) ask Councillor Kevin Maguire to circulate a list of speakers on the food poverty item to all members of the scrutiny committee

5. Environmental Strategy 2015 – 18 – progress update

The director of regeneration and development presented the report. He said that a progress reporting piece of work was published on a bi-annual basis which was taken to the sustainable development panel. This was the members opportunity to look at progress against the Environmental Strategy throughout the year.

He reminded members of the funding cuts the council was being faced with and said that this may impact investment in low carbon initiatives going forward. Within this landscape however, Norwich City Council was meeting the targets set out in the strategy.

The environmental strategy manager said that the Environmental Strategy was a reflection of other strategic policies and was monitored bi-annually through the Environmental Statement which would next be produced in September 2017. In response to a member's question, he explained that the Environmental Strategy set out the long term vision and the Environmental Statement reviewed the ongoing work and progress against the strategy. A member commented that it would be helpful to link the priorities between the Environmental Strategy and the Environmental Statement to allow easy cross-referencing.

Members discussed priority 1 – To reduce the city's CO2 emissions. The strategy manager said that the performance management system used to produce the graphs only included the most recent data and not historical data. The environmental strategy manager said that a national dataset was used to create this graph and he would send a link to members to this dataset.

(Councillor Fullman arrived at this point.)

In response to a member's question, the strategy manager said that overlaying NHS England data with data in the Environmental Strategy to identify correlations between respiratory problems and weather conditions would need to be a piece of collaborative work with Norfolk County Council and NHS colleagues to identify health needs in the city. The chair suggested that this could be looked at for next year's scrutiny work programme.

Members discussed the point that the air quality across the area had remained broadly unchanged and how this could be improved. The director of regeneration and development said that the work within the local plan needed to be reviewed and that strong representations had been made to partners to prioritise climate change. A review of the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (now known as Transport for Norwich) would also look at reducing emissions.

In response to a member's question, the environmental strategy manager said that a target for priority seven – to support a low carbon economy in Norwich – was in development using a national dataset and this would shortly be added to the Environmental Strategy.

The environmental strategy manager explained the process for consultation on the draft Environmental Strategy which had included member workshops with an expert panel and a public consultation. A member suggested that this could be a topic for an all member workshop. The director of regeneration and

development agreed that it was appropriate for the draft strategy to come to the scrutiny committee for comment before going to cabinet.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the Environmental Strategy 2015 – 2018 progress update,
- 2) ask the environmental strategy manager to:
 - a) consider linking the priorities in the Environmental Strategy and the Environmental Statement to allow for easy cross referencing of the documents; and
 - b) send a link to scrutiny committee members to the national dataset for carbon emissions
- 3) ask the director of regeneration and development to bring the draft environmental strategy 2018 – 2021 to the scrutiny committee at an appropriate time; and
- 4) to consider using a member briefing session for a workshop on the draft environmental strategy 2018 – 2021 to allow all councillor input.

6. Pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget for 2017 - 18

The chief finance officer presented the report appendix 7a on the general fund. She highlighted information in the report on the New Homes Bonus and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The cabinet member for resources and business liaison said that the smoothing of savings over several years allowed consistent levels of service. Frontline services as well as the ability to provide services to those most in need had been protected wherever possible.

Members discussed the complexity of the budget papers and the need for a process that was accessible by the public. The cabinet member for resources and development reminded members that the budget papers were a technical working document and were produced with high level information. The chief finance officer said that as a two year strategy had been developed, there would be more opportunities to look at next year's public consultation before it went live.

In response to a member's question, the chief finance officer said that expert advice was being sought on acquiring new assets to generate income. The aim would be to hold a self-maintaining property portfolio.

Discussion ensued on the integrated impact assessment on the papers, particularly on the 'advancing equality of opportunity' section. Members were reminded that the section in question related to equality of opportunity around the nine protected characteristics as set out in the Equalities Act 2010. The strategy manager agreed to review the integrated impact assessment for the budget papers in consultation with the chief finance officer, prior to the report being taken to cabinet.

The chief finance officer presented report 7b on the Housing Revenue Account.

In response to a member's question, she said that she would need to gather more information on exactly what the decrease in community safety and environment was and circulate this information to members.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) ask the strategy manager to:
 - a) to review the integrated impact assessments for the budget papers prior to the report being taken to cabinet, in consultation with the chief finance officer,
 - b) circulate to all members, information on the purpose of impact assessment for committee reports
- 2) ask the chief finance officer to:
 - a) circulate information to scrutiny committee members on the decrease in community safety and environment
 - b) review the communication strategy and consultation timing around the budget papers to council to ensure the citizens of Norwich can engage effectively in the process
 - c) consider using the summer edition of Citizen magazine to publish an accessible summary of the 2017 – 18 budget
- 3) note the importance of parks and facilities in Norwich

7. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *8 below on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

***8. Pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget for 2017 – 18 – exempt appendices (paragraph 3)**

The chief finance officer presented the report and answered member's questions.

RESOLVED to note the pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget for 2017 – 18 – exempt appendices.

Norwich City Council
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Item No 5

REPORT for meeting to be held on 23 February 2017

Work Programme for 2016-17

Summary: To provide information to members on the state of the scrutiny work programme.

Conclusions: The work programme is accompanied by the forward agenda and tracker to provide additional information for members.

Recommendation: For the committee to note the work programme.

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DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, CABINET, PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR, or ORGNISATION	SCOPE – REASON FOR TOPIC REQUEST and OUTCOME SOUGHT
30 June 2016	Market Consultation	Adrian Akester (Head of Citywide Services)	To update members on the outcomes of the consultation on Norwich Market.
30 June 2016	Grounds Maintenance Contract	Adrian Akester (Head of Citywide Services)	To gain clarification on whether efficiencies can be found in the budget regarding the Grounds Maintenance Contract.
30 June 2016	Publication of Traffic Regulation Orders	Phil Shreeve (Strategy manager)	To understand how the council will publicise information about Traffic Regulation Orders
30 June 2016	Quarter 4 Performance Review	Phil Shreeve (Strategy manager)	Identification of any causes for concern and note successes arising from this 6 monthly review of performance monitoring data
14 July 2016 MEETING CANCELLED	Communications and Consultation	Nikki Rotsos and portfolio holder (Cllr Waters)	The strategy manager circulated a briefing paper and the committee will look at this document at the meeting on 20 October.
14 July 2016 MEETING CANCELLED	Devolution	Phil Shreeve and Cllr Wright	To discuss the council's position on the proposed East Anglian devolution plan.
14 July 2016 Evidence gathering meeting	City Accessibility Tour	Andy Watt and Cllr Wright	This scrutiny committee meeting was cancelled and instead some members took part in a tour of the city looking at accessibility around the city. Access groups were also invited to attend, including RNIB and NNAB.

DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, CABINET, PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR, or ORGNISATION	SCOPE – REASON FOR TOPIC REQUEST and OUTCOME SOUGHT
22 September 2016	Update from 21st July meeting of the Norfolk Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Maguire, NHOSC councillor rep	For the committee to note the work of NHOSC and comment on any implications for Norwich residents for the rep to take back to the next NHOSC meeting.
22 September 2016	Update from 8th September meeting of the Norfolk Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Maguire, NHOSC councillor rep	For the committee to note the work of NHOSC and comment on any implications for Norwich residents for the rep to take back to the next NHOSC meeting.
22 September 2016	Academies and education attainment	Cllr Wright, chair of scrutiny	To consider the current state of educational outcomes in Norwich with reference to changing school structures such as academies and free schools.
20 October 2016	Update from 13th October meeting of the Norfolk Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Maguire, NHOSC councillor rep	For the committee to note the work of NHOSC and comment on any implications for Norwich residents for the rep to take back to the next NHOSC meeting.
20 October 2016	Educational outcomes for the young people of Norwich	Cllr Wright, chair of scrutiny	To consider the current state of educational outcomes in Norwich with reference to changing school structures such as academies and free schools.
20 October 2016	Consultation method	Nikki Rotsos (Director of customers and culture)	That the scrutiny committee notes the consultation process of the council and considers specific ways of enhancing this.

DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, CABINET, PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR, or ORGNISATION	SCOPE – REASON FOR TOPIC REQUEST and OUTCOME SOUGHT
24 November 2016	Greater Norwich Growth Board and Local Enterprise Partnership	Dave Moorcroft (Director of regeneration and development)	A briefing paper about the 'current state of play' in regard to GNGB and LEP.
24 November 2016	Education and Social Mobility	James Wright, chair of scrutiny	To provide members the opportunity to form recommendations following the evidence gathering meetings around academies at the September and October scrutiny committee meetings.
15 December 2016	Update from 8th December meeting of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Maguire, NHOSC councillor rep	For the committee to note the work of NHOSC and comment on any implications for Norwich residents for the rep to take back to the next NHOSC meeting.
15 December 2016	Corporate Plan Review	Adam Clark (Strategy manager)	To consider amendments to corporate performance KPIs
15 December 2016	Equality Information Report	Adam Clark (Strategy manager)	Pre scrutiny of the report before it goes to cabinet.
15 December 2016	Neighbourhood Model and ward councillors	Bob Cronk (Director of neighbourhoods)	Scrutinise the Neighbourhood Model to see how the public is engaged, how councillors are involved and how resources will be allocated

DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, CABINET, PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR, or ORGNISATION	SCOPE – REASON FOR TOPIC REQUEST and OUTCOME SOUGHT
26 January 2017	Pre scrutiny of the proposed budget	Justine Hartley (Chief finance officer)	To make suggestions to cabinet regarding the proposed budget's ability to deliver the council's overarching policy.
26 January 2017	Environmental Strategy – Yearly update on the progress statement	Richard Willson (Environmental strategy manager)	Identification of any issues to consider and note successes and progress reported in the progress statement.
26 January 2017	Update from 12th January meeting of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Maguire, NHOSC councillor rep	For the committee to note the work of NHOSC and comment on any implications for Norwich residents for the rep to take back to the next NHOSC meeting.
23 February 2017	Food Poverty	Adam Clark (Strategy manager) and Cllr Maguire	For the committee to identify and address the cause and effects around food poverty in Norwich.
23 March 2017	Summary of Food Poverty meeting	Adam Clark (Strategy manager) and Cllr Maguire	Following the first food poverty meeting, this committee meeting will aim to identify solutions and resolutions to recommend to cabinet for consideration
6 April 2017	Annual Review of the Scrutiny Committee	Beth Clark and Cllr Wright	To agree the annual review of the scrutiny committee's work 2016 to 2017 and recommend it for adoption of the council

DATE OF MEETING	TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, CABINET, PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR, or ORGNISATION	SCOPE – REASON FOR TOPIC REQUEST and OUTCOME SOUGHT
6 April 2017	City Accessibility	Andy Watt (Head of city development services)	To make appropriate recommendations on how the council could ensure that people with visual impairments/disabilities can access the city safely and with confidence.

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Scrutiny Request	Outcomes or current position
11 June 2015	The council's consultation process	Nikki Rotsos	For a briefing paper to be circulated, for scrutiny members to gain an overview and understanding of the council's current work in this area.	This item is provisionally allocated to be reviewed by the committee on 14 July 2016
15 October 2015	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015 – 2016	James Wright	Discussion of income generation led to the suggestion of involving cooperatives in this work. Idea to hold a half-day seminar for senior staff and officers to provide clarification around the way in which they work	The cooperatives item is being progressed by the strategy manager and Cllr Herries for a future scrutiny committee meeting – date tbc. It was also agreed that workshops would be held to update members.
12 November 2015	Community Space Review	Bob Cronk	It was agreed a website containing a centralised tool for room bookings across all community centres would worthwhile	A central online booking system is something that has previously been explored with the volunteer management committees/community associations that operate the council's community centres. A centralised tool would provide some positive benefits but not all of the centres use IT regularly. The new community centres website could be used as a basis for this and further development work with the centres has been proposed linking this proposal with the council's digital inclusion activity. The majority of the centres still work with a paper booking system and taking forward a web based system would require endorsement from the centres but something the council can encourage and will continue to do so, building on those centres that do use web tools.
17 December 2015	*Transformation Update	Bob Cronk	Discuss with the communications team about publishing the changes to the Housing and Planning Bill	Members can find an update on the Housing and Planning Act on the Local Government Information Unit website: http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/housing-and-planning-bill-update/

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Scrutiny Request	Outcomes or current position
17 December 2015	Quarter 2 performance monitoring 2015 – 2016	Andy Watt	The homelessness strategy shows that Norwich is way below the average with regards to preventing homelessness by keeping people in their own homes. How does this relate to the target of preventing homelessness? Would it be worth having a new target to help increase the number of people staying in their own home?	Members can find an update on e-councillor
28 January 2016	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015 – 2016	James Wright	Ask the chair to provide members with an update on the cooperatives briefing	The cooperatives item is being progressed by the strategy manager and Cllr Herries for a future scrutiny committee meeting – date tbc. It was also agreed that workshops would be held to update members.
25 February 2016	Norfolk Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee	Phil Shreeve	Ask the strategy manager to contact the chair of the CCG to see which consultations on planned changes to commissioning intentions may be able to be made available via e-councillor	A discussion has been held and further options looked at once the CCG have looked again at their consultation and engagement processes
	Council policies for the control of verge parking and A boards	Andy Watt	Contact all schools in the Norwich City Council area for a copy of their travel plan to collect data on how children travel to school	Members can find information here: <u>\\Sfil2\Shared Folders\Transport and infrastructure\Transport planning\School Travel\School Travel Plans\School Travel Plans (2016)</u>
		Andy Watt	Liaise with the communications team and place an article in Citizen magazine to promote best practise around verge parking	The communications team have confirmed that the article has been written, signed off and filed ready for the summer issue (which is circulated from June 6 th)

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Scrutiny Request	Outcomes or current position
17 March 2016	Push the Pedalways	Jo Deverick	Percentage of roads that are 20mph on the pink pedalway	<p>West area (around The Avenues), including North Park Avenue. 10763 metres (10.8 kilometres)</p> <p>- Britannia Road (includes part of Gurney Road and Vincent Road). 1284 metres (1.3 kilometres)</p> <p>- East area (Heartsease). 12401 metres (12.4 kilometres)</p> <p>Areas that have been approved and designed as part of the CCAG1 but will be installed as part of the CCAG2</p> <p>- City centre - the new areas of 20mph. This includes all new areas within the old city walls and a small area north of Barrack Street. 23738 metres (23.8 kilometres)</p> <p>More information about the benefits of 20 mph areas please look on Norwich City Council website under the Cabinet Committee papers section from March 9th meeting.</p>
		Jo Deverick	Members asked for verification of the width of the contraflow cycle path of Essex Street	Ongoing
		Phil Shreeve	Understand the health benefits of the pedalway scheme and benefits for 20mph zones	<p>Benefits of 20mph zones - http://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/health_inequalities.cfm</p>

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Scrutiny Request	Outcomes or current position
17 March 2016	Push the Pedalways	Phil Shreeve		Benefits of physical activity - http://www.ukactive.com/turningthetide/ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/everybody-active-every-day-a-framework-to-embed-physical-activity-into-daily-life
26 May 2016	Setting of the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	Phil Shreeve	Members asked for information about the publication of Traffic Regulation Orders	The service is looking at getting TROs online as soon as resource enables it to happen.
30 June 2016	Quarterly performance report	Phil Shreeve	With reference to measure PVC4 (number of new business start-ups) members requested further information, in particular what would happen if a new business were to close?	The Economic development officer – ‘The figure was gross, it measures new businesses which have started with support from local business support agencies. It is not a measure of active businesses which is a net figure i.e .new businesses + existing businesses – business closures. This measure is available from official statistics but is subject to a 2 year time lag which is why it is not used as a performance measure, it is not timely enough. The measure does not include business closures’
30 June 2016	Update on the Norwich Market Consultation	Adrian Akester	The scrutiny committee to explore the possibility of 1. for a bus route to take in the market place via Saint Peters Street; and, 2. to improve sign posting from existing bus stops to the market (particularly on Castle Meadow)	The head of city development responded, ‘1) is a matter for the county council as they are the passenger transport authority. From the knowledge I do have it is very unlikely to be viable and also a single bus route is only going to be of use for a small proportion of the population. As Scrutiny Committee notes the nearest main bus stops are at Castle Meadow. The market is already signed from Castle Meadow (at the junction with Davey Place). To

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Scrutiny Request	Outcomes or current position
				provide more signs as requested under 2) would be costly, however there is no budget for this, nor for future maintenance. Such provision could only therefore be justified based on well researched marketing advice of which I am unaware. Additional signs would also add to street clutter.
22 September 2016	Switch and Save		For members to better understand the Switch and Save process	It was agreed that the best way to implement this would for the scrutiny committee to attend an all member briefing on this topic
24 November 2016	Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) update	James Wright	RESOLVED that the chair would write to: a) The GNGB to request as a part of their meetings the inclusion of public questions and the publication of papers in advance of any meeting; and, b) The NALEP to request as a part of their meetings the inclusion of public questions and the publication of papers in advance of any meeting and to encourage trade union representation as a part of the group.	Ongoing
	Education and Social Mobility	Cabinet member for fairness and equality, Vaughan Thomas	Ask the cabinet member for fairness and equality to complete the government consultation entitled 'Schools that work for everyone';	Due to time constraints, the cabinet member was unable to complete the consultation before the deadline.

Date	Topic	Responsible Officer	Scrutiny Request	Outcomes or current position
24 November 2016	Education and social mobility	James Wright	Recommend to cabinet the establishment of a cooperative academy chain	Ongoing
		James Wright	Recommend to Norfolk County Council children's services that they encourage academies to engage more fully with the work of the Early Help Hub	Ongoing
		James Wright	The chair to write to the new head of children's services at Norfolk County Council, welcoming them to the role and asking that – given the state of educational outcomes in the city – what work was being planned around: i) Vulnerable families; and, ii) Lack of alternative provision	Ongoing
15 December 2016	Neighbourhood model and the role of the ward councillor	Bob Cronk	A workshop on the Neighbourhood model to answer the questions: How are councillors currently engaged and supporting local community activity? - What do members think is the role of the ward councillor in the enabling programme? - What support or training do members need to help communities do more for themselves?	This workshop took place on 10 January 2017

FORWARD AGENDA: CABINET and COUNCIL MEETINGS 2016 – 2017

ALLOCATED ITEMS						
Meeting	Report	Purpose	Portfolio holder + Senior Officer + Report author	Date report signed off by	Management clearance	Exempt?
COUNCIL 21 FEB 2017	General fund revenue budget 2017-18 and capital programme 2017-18 to 2021- 22	To consider the budget and budgetary requirement, council tax requirement, level of council tax for 2017-18 and the non-housing capital programme 2017-18 to 2021-22.	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	13 FEB	Justine Hartley	NO
COUNCIL 21 FEB 2017	Housing rents and budget 2017-18	To consider the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2017-18, council housing rents for 2017-18, the prudent minimum level of HRA reserves 2017-18, and housing capital programme 2017-18 to 2022-23.	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	13 FEB	Justine Hartley	NO
COUNCIL 21 FEB 2017	Treasury management strategy 2017-18	To outline the council's prudential indicators for 2017-18 through to 2019-20 and set out the expected treasury operations for this period.	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	13 FEB	Justine Hartley	NO
COUNCIL 21 FEB 2017	Corporate plan and performance	To consider amendments to corporate performance KPIs and corporate plan documentation	Cllr Waters Adam Clark	13 FEB	Laura McGillivray	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Revenue budget monitoring 2016/17 period 10	To provide an update on the provisional financial position as at 31 January 2017, the forecast outturn for the year 2016-17, and the consequent forecast of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances.	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	1 MAR	Justine Hartley	NO
CABINET 15 MAR	Proposed right off of bad debt	To provide an update with regard to the write off of non- recoverable national non	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	1 MAR	Justine Hartley	NO

ALLOCATED ITEMS						
Meeting	Report	Purpose	Portfolio holder + Senior Officer + Report author	Date report signed off by	Management clearance	Exempt?
2017		domestic rate (NNDR) debt and request approval for the write off of debts which are deemed irrecoverable.				
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Grant of right to buy one for one receipts	To consider the granting of right to buy one for one receipts to support the provision of new homes by registered providers.	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	1 MAR	Justine Hartley	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Greater Norwich Development Partnership Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report	To seek approval to finalise the Greater Norwich Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.	Cllr. Bremner Mike Burrell Judith Davison	1 MAR	Dave Moorcroft	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Warden call replacement in Sheltered Housing – KEY DECISION	To inform Cabinet of the procurement process for the replacement of the warden call systems in sheltered housing and to ask for delegated approval to place the orders	Cllr. Harris Carol Marney Brad Greeves	1 MAR	Bob Cronk	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Anglia Square policy guidance note – KEY DECISION	To seek approval to adopt the policy guidance note	Judith Davison	1 MAR	Dave Moorcroft	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Pay Policy Statement 2018-19	To consider and recommend to full council the pay policy statement for 2018-19.	Cllr Waters Dawn Bradshaw	1 MAR	Anton Bull	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Treasury management strategy 2017-18	To outline the council's prudential indicators for 2017-18 through to 2019-20 and set out the expected treasury operations for this period.	Cllr Mike Stonard Justine Hartley	1 MAR	Justine Hartley	NO
CABINET	Municipal Bonds	To seek approval for the use of the	Cllr Mike Stonard	1 MAR	Justine	NO

ALLOCATED ITEMS						
Meeting	Report	Purpose	Portfolio holder + Senior Officer + Report author	Date report signed off by	Management clearance	Exempt?
15 MAR 2017	Agency borrowing framework	Municipal Bonds Agency for future borrowing needs.	Justine Hartley		Hartley	
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Greater Norwich Investment Plan KEY DECISION	To agree on the inclusion of projects in the 2017-18 Greater Norwich Investment Plan	Cllr Waters Dave Moorcroft	1 MAR	Dave Moorcroft	NO
CABINET 15 MAR 2017	Procurement for income generation for Norwich City Council by advertising in its three multi storey car parks – KEY DECISION	To consider the award of a contract for income generation for the city council by advertising in its three multi storey car parks.	Cllr Waters Justine Hartley Kyle Jameson	1 MAR	Anton Bull	NO
COUNCIL 21 MAR 2017	Appointment of the section 151 officer (chief finance officer)	To consider the appointment of the section 151 officer (chief finance officer)	Dawn Bradshaw	13 MAR	Laura McGillivray	NO
COUNCIL 21 MAR 2017	Pay Policy Statement 2018-19	To consider and agree the pay policy statement for 2018-19.	Cllr Waters Dawn Bradshaw	13 MAR	Anton Bull	NO
CABINET 12 APR 2017	Award of contract for provision of loft and cavity wall insulation – KEY DECISION	To award a contract to provide loft and cavity wall insulation to council owned housing assets	Cllr Gail Harris Gary Atkins Lee Robson	29 APR	Bob Cronk	NO
CABINET 8 FEB 2017	Managing assets	To consider the future of the land and property described in the report		29 APR		Yes (Para 3)

Norwich City Council
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Item No 6

REPORT for meeting to be held on 23 February 2017

Causes of food poverty in Norwich

Summary:

This report defines food poverty and outlines the causes of food poverty on both a national and local level.

Also included is data from Norwich foodbank to identify trends showing who uses them and why.

Conclusions:

The report provides members with information on food poverty in the city and causes.

Recommendation:

That the scrutiny committee considers the evidence provided and identifies the three main drivers of food poverty in Norwich with a view to identify possible solutions at the March meeting.

Contact Officer:

Councillor Kevin Maguire

Adam Clark, strategy manager, 01603 212273

Background

‘Food poverty is...

...worse diet, worse access, worse health, higher percentage of income on food and less choice from a restricted range of foods. Above all food poverty is about less or almost no consumption of fruit & vegetables’

Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy at City University

1. The scrutiny committee opted to dedicate two meetings to the topic of food poverty in Norwich. The meeting on 23 February will address the causes of food poverty in Norwich and the meeting on 23 March will identify any solutions.
2. Members will hear from three speakers who will provide evidence on food poverty and will answer questions to help inform any recommendations the committee may make.
 - Presentation by Jo Mack (Author of Breadline Britain)
Joanna Mack works at the Open University and created the research resource www.poverty.ac.uk. They are both former award-winning television producers, and have collaborated on research and television programmes about poverty over the last thirty years. She lives in St Albans. <https://oneworld-publications.com/joanna-mack.html>
 - Presentation by Councillor Vaughan Thomas (cabinet member for fairness and equality)
 - Hannah Worsley (project manager of Foodbank) Norwich foodbank supports local individuals and families who find themselves on the edge of disaster through the provision of emergency food supplies. These supplies take the form of nutritionally balanced emergency foodboxes to cover an individual or family’s basic needs for 72 hours: the critical time gap before the Social Services safety net “kicks in.”
<http://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Group/Group.aspx?ID=109369>

Causes and consequences

3. Root causes of food poverty

- Delay in benefits
- Benefits sanction
- Changes to benefits
- Unemployment
- Debt
- Domestic abuse
- Sickness
- Low income
- Homelessness
- Absence of free school meals during school holidays
- No recourse to public funds (asylum seekers)
- Rising food prices (up by 12% from 2009-2013)

4. Consequences of food poverty

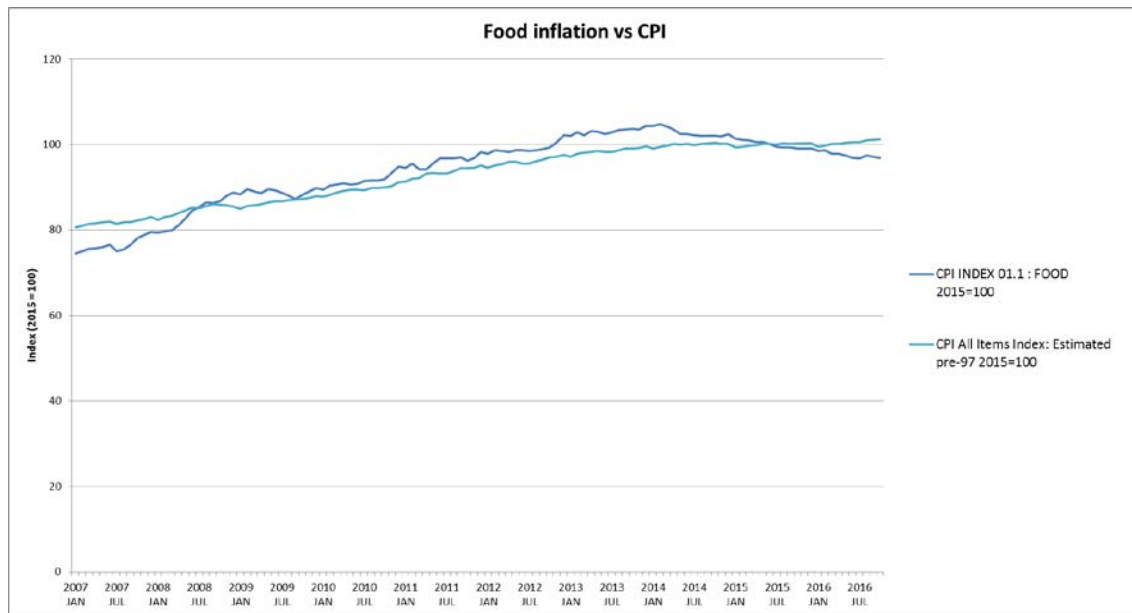
- Poor nutrition
- Poor health outcomes – over or underweight
- Increase in health inequalities
- Over indebtedness
- Social isolation

5. The Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has responsibility for household food security and department of health has responsibility for obesity and nutrition. The health and well-being boards and public health departments in local authorities are responsible at a local level. However there is no national policy on food.

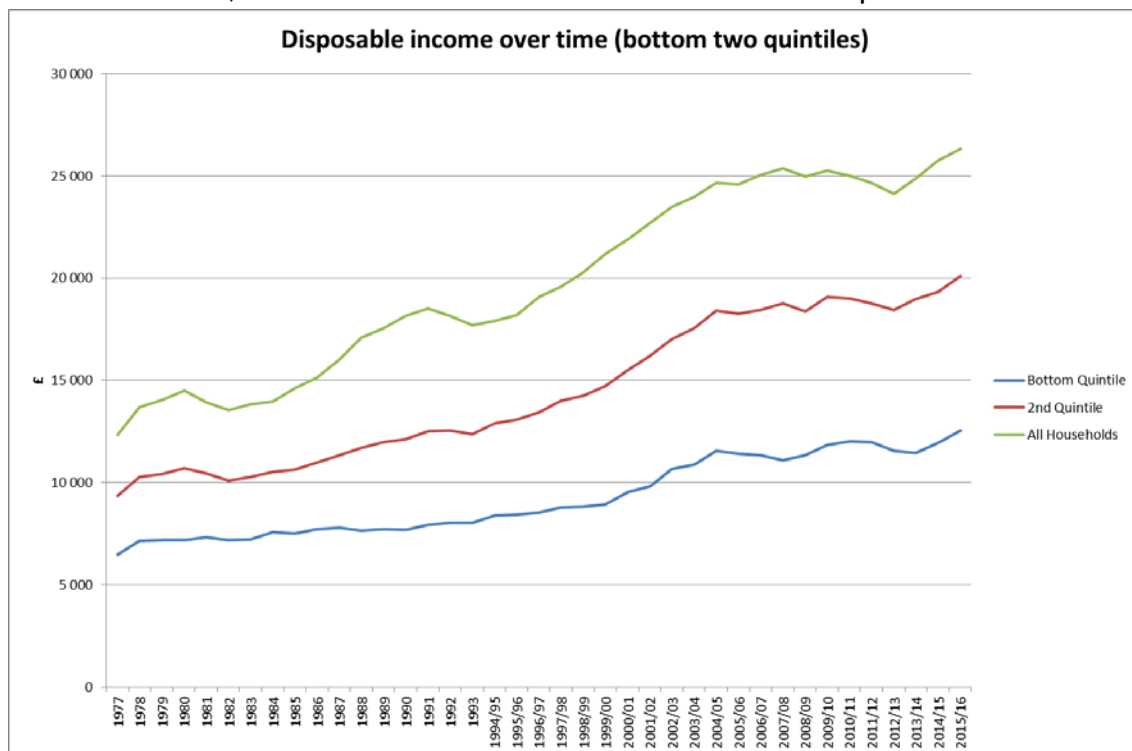
The following sections show key data on two issues – income and benefits.

Income

6. The following graphs show national statistics that show some of the pressures on household budgets. The first graph shows how trends in food prices over recent years compare with wider changes in the costs of goods and services as reflected by CPI:



The next graph shows variation in disposable incomes for households over recent decades, with the trends for those in the bottom two quintiles shown:



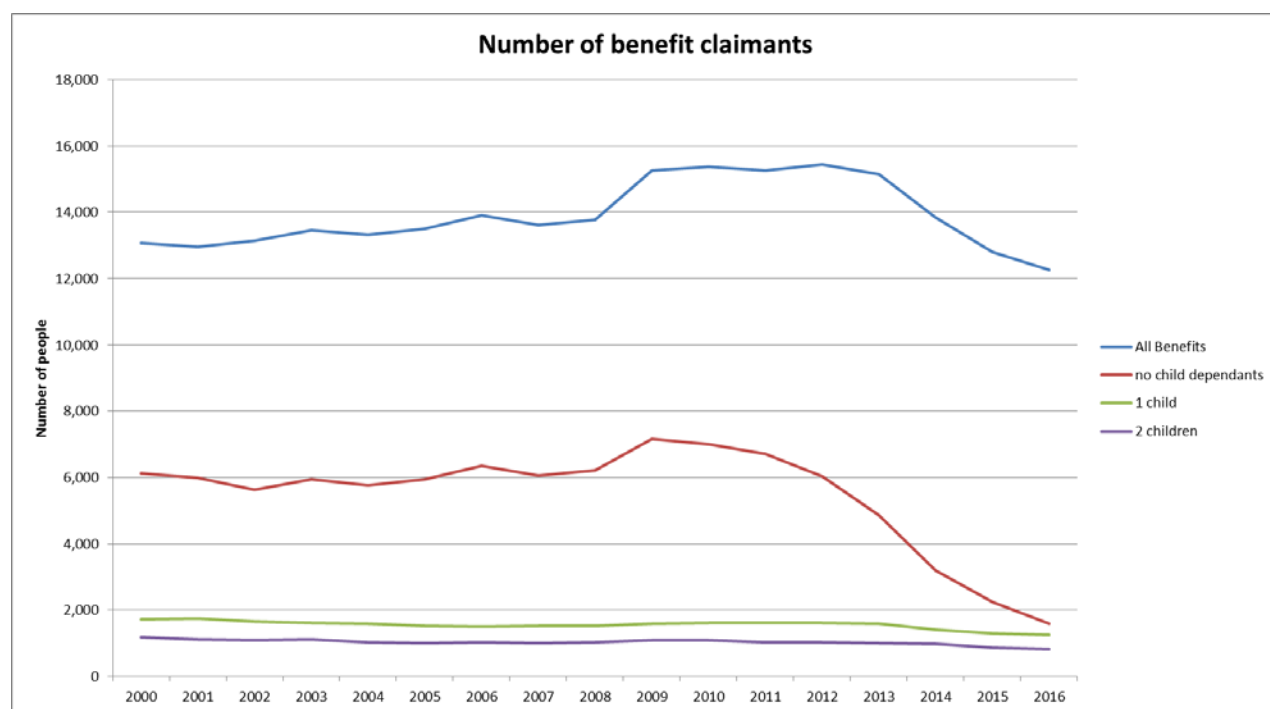
7. The level of income varies for different types of households, for example by housing tenure, as does the source, as can be seen from the next two tables:

Tenure		Average disposable annual income
Rented	Social rented	£20,585
	Private rented unfurnished	£30,618
	Private rented furnished	£30,346
	Rent free	£32,805
Owner-occupied	With mortgage	£46,709
	Rental purchase	£27,253
	Owned outright	£30,711

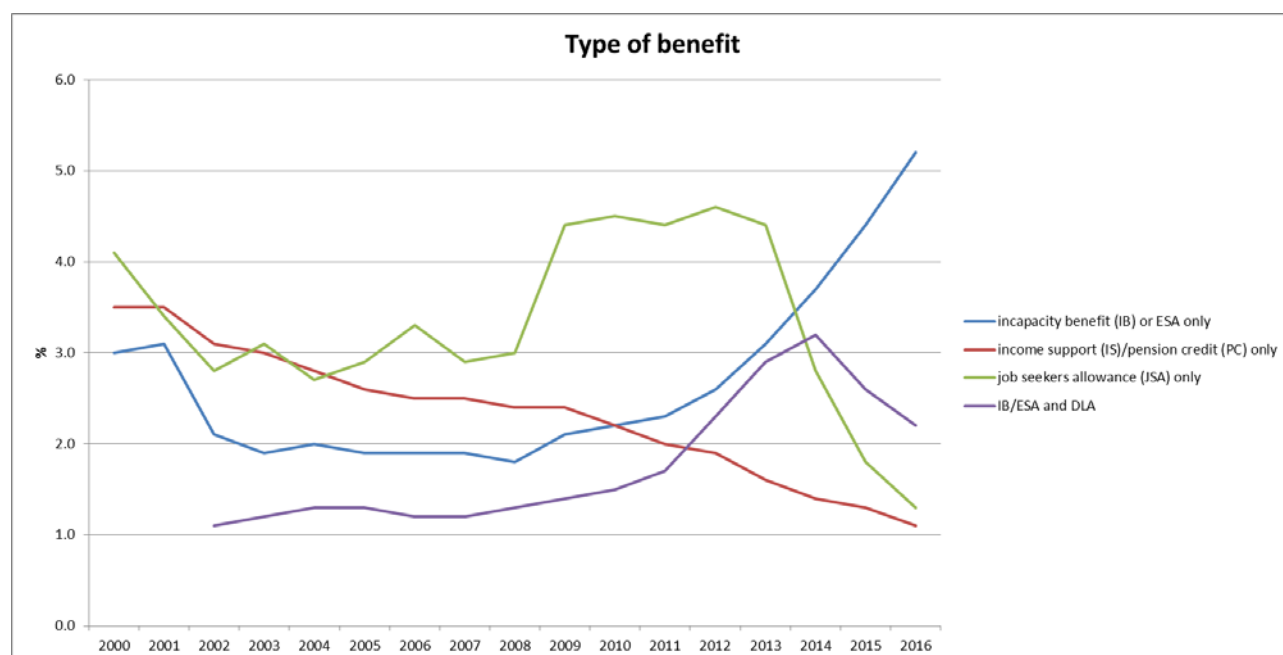
Tenure		Source of income as % of gross household income					
		Wages and salaries	Self-employment income	Private pensions, annuities	Investment income	Other income	Total cash benefits
Rented	Social rented	42	5	4	0	1	48
	Private rented unfurnished	68	9	2	2	1	17
	Private rented furnished	72	10	1	1	3	12
	Rent free	33	2	7	5	30	14
Owner-occupied	With mortgage	81	9	2	2	1	4
	Rental purchase	85	3	1	0	0	10
	Owned outright	40	7	26	5	0	21

Benefits

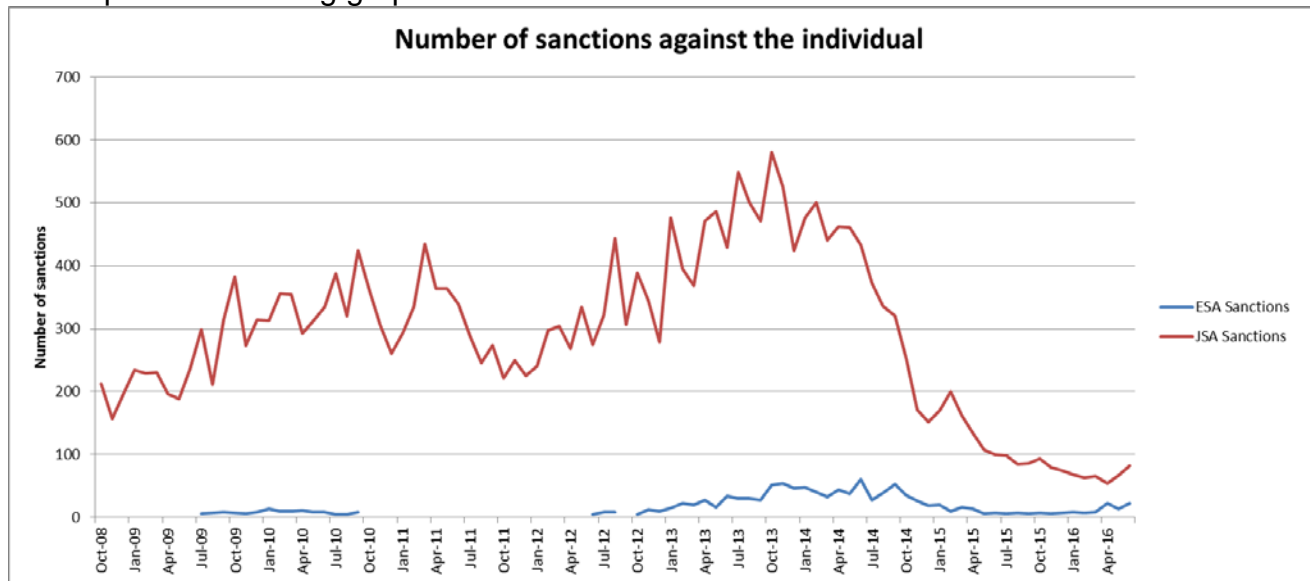
8. The next graph shows numbers of benefits claimants in Norwich over recent years



9. Although there has been an overall reduction in total numbers of claimants, as can be seen from the following graph there has been a change in the pattern of benefits claimed:



10. Levels of benefit sanctions have also fluctuated over recent years as per the following graph:

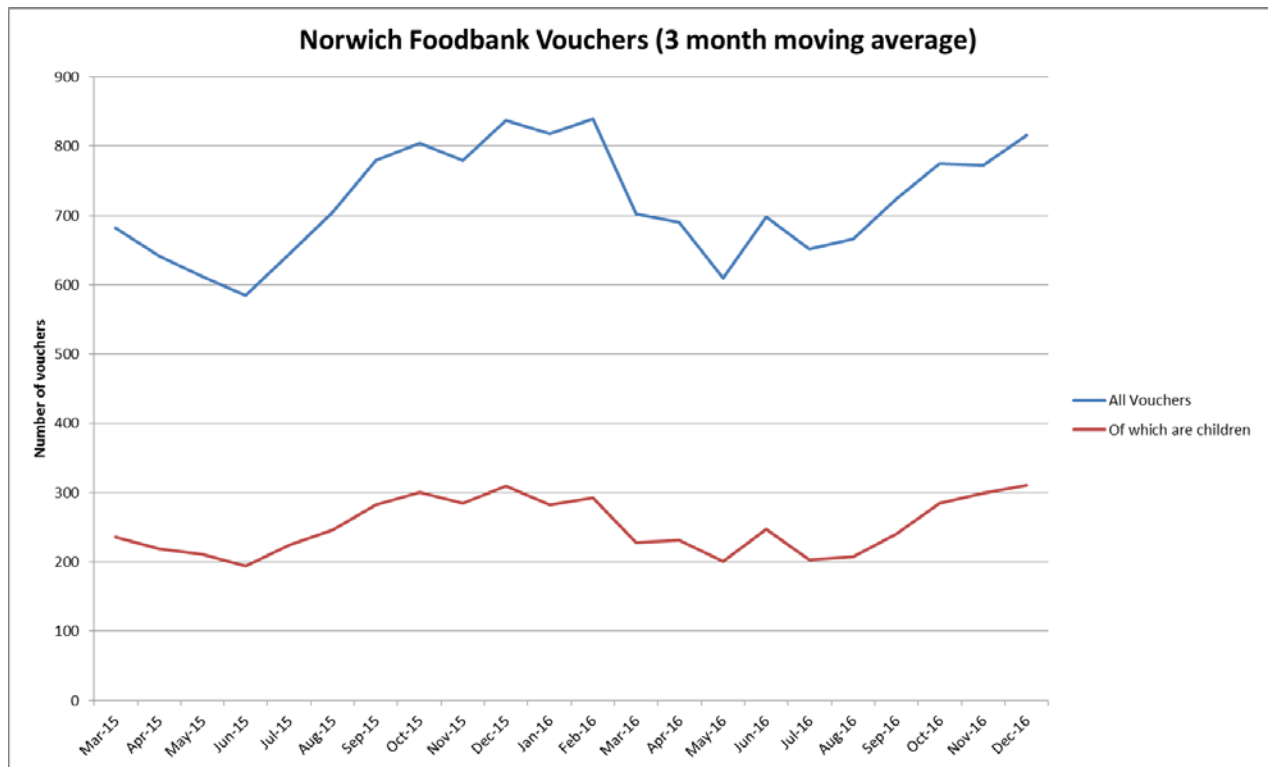


11. Local food poverty context:

- Social exclusion (not being able to participate in food as an aesthetic)
- Insufficient or acceptable quality of food
- Lack of means to obtain food
- Food deserts – areas where cheap, healthy food is unobtainable without use of private transport.

Norwich foodbank statistics

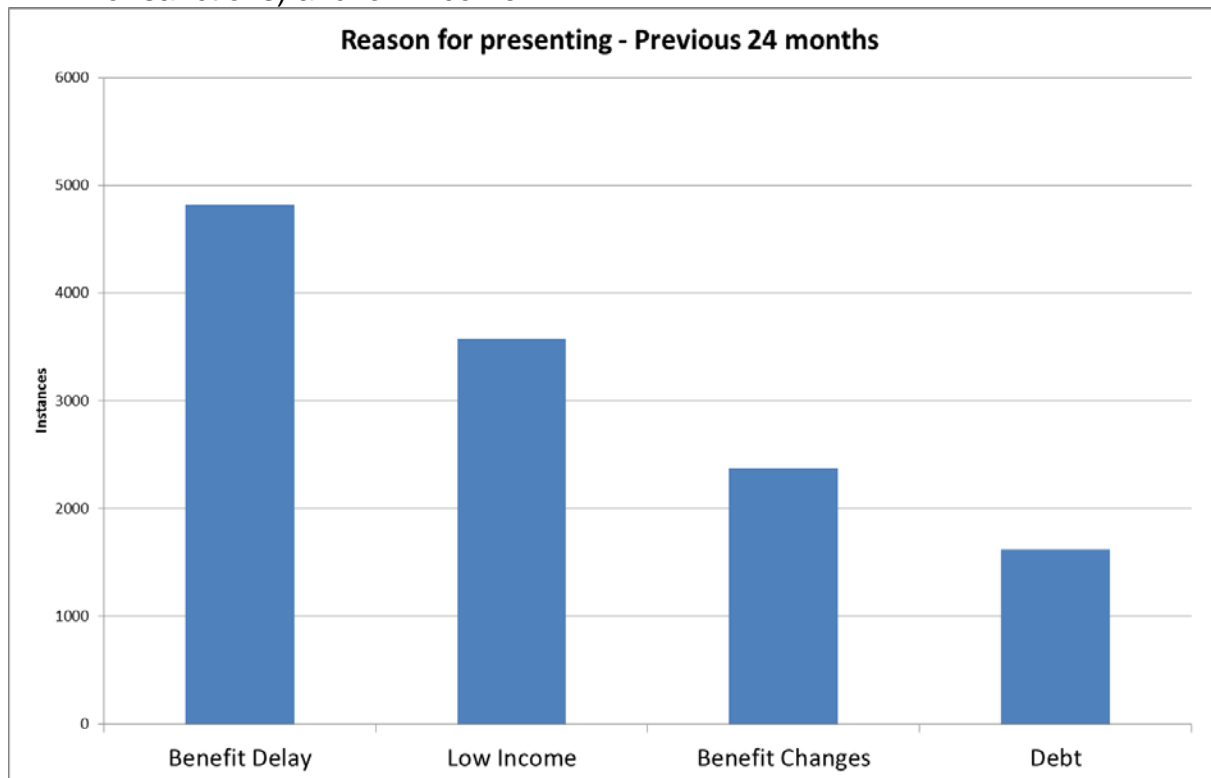
12. The first graph shows the total number of vouchers distributed by Norwich foodbank per month over the last couple of years (including to non-city council area residents):



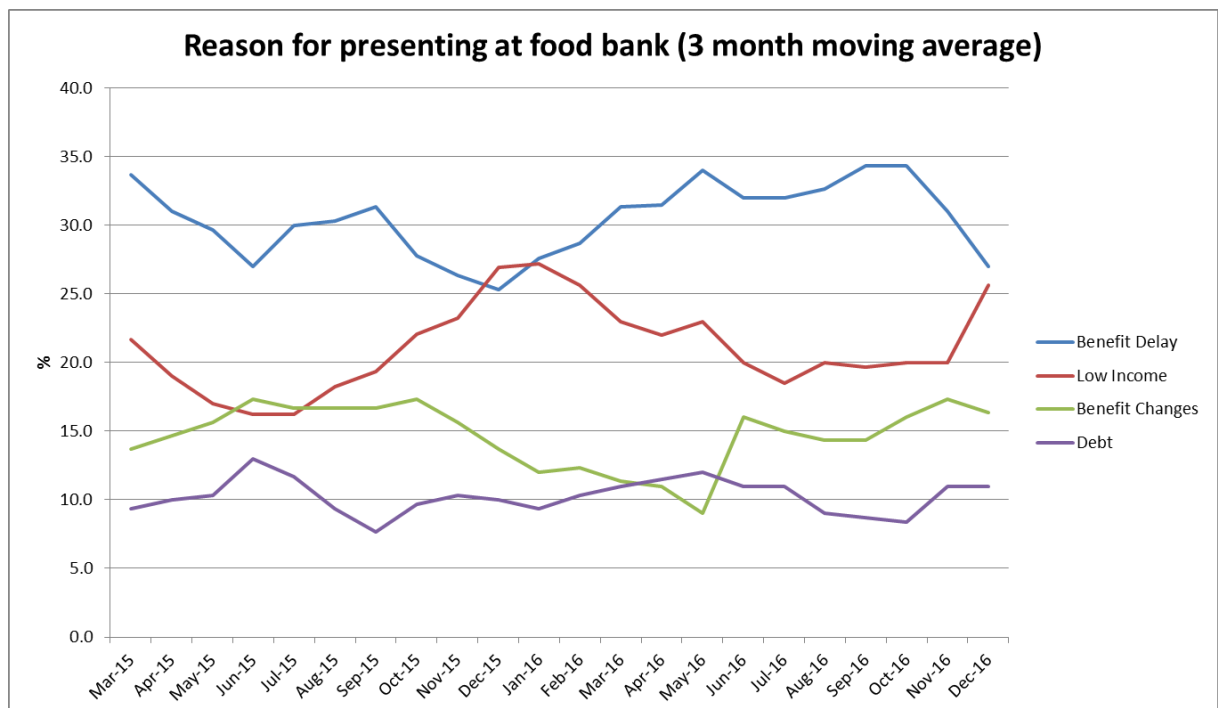
13. Over the same period, between 85% and 92% of foodbank users are unemployed in any given month.

14. In terms of Norwich residents, the map at appendix A shows patterns of foodbank demand coming from specific wards.

15. As can be seen from the following graph, the main reasons given by Norwich foodbank users for presenting are related to benefits (delays or sanctions) and low income:



Though these reasons vary over time:





16. Strategies to manage food poverty

- Use of credit
- Participation in the black economy
- Reliance on family and friends
- Food aid: Food banks/soup runs/meals on wheels etc.
- Frequent shopping for bargains
- Cutting down on meals
- Cutting down on what is perceived as more expensive foods – meat, dairy and fresh fruit and vegetables

17. Evidence suggests that people are well aware of health messages regarding nutrition and diet, but some are not able to exercise much choice as decisions are dictated by diminished or at times non-existent resources.

18. There is no doubt that healthier food choices are more likely to be made if access to good quality, cheap fresh foods are more widely available.

19. Those with limited resources might benefit from support in managing food and their food budgets to maximum effect on health and nutrition, without compromising on quality.

20. Tony Cooke Head of health improvement, Kirklees public health asks the following questions that members may find useful to consider:

- Should we focus on alleviation of hunger, improvements to diet/nutrition or both?
- How to engage with public health teams to address food poverty?
- How can public health engage other partners to address food poverty?
- What are the consequences of food poverty?
- Which areas can public health address? Focus on low / medium input, high impact
- Can local authorities develop systematic strategies to address health inequalities including food poverty and poverty more generally?

