Framework for an effective local anti-poverty strategy

Based on the findings of our report, Local anti-poverty strategies – Good practice and effective approaches, Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) has developed a framework that highlights what elements an anti-poverty strategy needs to maximise its impact. This framework is intended to be of use to local authorities seeking to develop or refresh an anti-poverty strategy.

An anti-poverty strategy will only be successful if it is supported by the elements identified in this framework. All these elements are complementary and interdependent.

- **Define poverty and its drivers**
  Local authorities need to adopt a relative definition of poverty and identify the drivers of poverty (using appropriate and available metrics).

- **Political and officer leadership**
  Active committed leadership on poverty (politically and officially) is required to drive change and coordinate strategic and policy responses.

- **Focus on prevention, reduction, and mitigation**
  A medium and long-term perspective is needed that includes actions that prevent and reduce the root causes of poverty.

- **Prioritisation**
  Local authorities need to be clear about what the strategy seeks to achieve and how actions will be taken to achieve it.

- **Partnership working**
  An anti-poverty strategy requires buy-in from local stakeholders to achieve its aims and objectives.

- **Lived experience engagement and co-production**
  An anti-poverty strategy should be developed with people with lived experience of poverty to challenge the existing ways of working and ensure that anti-poverty efforts are centred around the needs of the community.
Reinforcing and aligning with existing strategies
Tackling poverty needs to be incorporated within existing strategies rather than operating as ‘ad-hoc’ to existing commitments and services.

Governance
Anti-poverty strategies should be subject to both internal and external governance.

Action Plan
Accompanying the anti-poverty strategy should be a high-level action plan detailing who is responsible for the delivery of the actions, timelines, and milestones, and associated outcomes.

Adopting the socio-economic duty
To support the effectiveness of an anti-poverty strategy, local authorities should voluntarily adopt the socio-economic duty.

Adaptability
An anti-poverty strategy cannot “standstill”, for it to serve its purpose it should be viewed as adaptable, rather than a collection of actions that should be rigidly adhered to.

Monitoring and evaluation
Local authorities and partners need to identify a clear set of metrics (quantitative and qualitative) against which progress on tackling poverty can be tracked. Working collaboratively to identify data and evidence gaps and addressing these together.