Introduction

Glasgow City Council welcomes the opportunity to further contribute to the development of measures to address child poverty in Scotland. In our original submission to the legislative consultation in September 2016, we set out a range of approaches that the Council has already adopted to help address child and family poverty. We are strongly supportive of the ambition set out in the Bill.

Glasgow currently has the highest levels of child poverty in Scotland and of any other local authority area at 33% along with significant variations at parliamentary constituency and ward level. Close to 75% of children in poverty in the city are living in working households.

Reducing poverty on a major scale will take time and challenges should be achievable. More resources need to be targeted at local authorities with the highest levels of child poverty to enable them to co-design solutions with key stakeholders, including those with lived experience of poverty. This is in line with current policy on city devolution and the role of cities in both driving economic growth and tackling poverty and inequalities.

**Whether you agree that statutory child poverty targets should be re-introduced for Scotland?**

As stated in our original submission, we are strongly supportive of this. These reinstate the measures previously framed in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

**The appropriateness and scope of the 4 proposed target**

We welcome the inclusion of the four income based income measures. Inadequate income remains the decisive characteristic of poverty and must remain central to any poverty measurement. Without income measures it would be very difficult to determine to what extent the poorest families are sharing in economic growth.

The targets are ambitious as they should be. However it is not clear how local areas with higher levels of child poverty, such as Glasgow City will be resourced to achieve the 2030 targets. Glasgow’s budget for local services remains under substantial pressure. The budget allocated to local government has fallen and the share of that national budget then allocated to Glasgow has also declined.
**Whether interim targets are needed**

The Institute of Fiscal Studies estimate that child poverty in Scotland will rise by 50% = 100,000 children by 2020. This needs real focus and action to make a difference to which the legislation and targets are helpful. In the current climate we believe interim targets are essential to maintain momentum, assess progress and make sure that measures being taken to reduce poverty were having an effect on children and families now. Interim targets could be set for 2020 and 2025 and reviewed.

**The proposed arrangements for reporting progress towards meeting the targets and how best to hold the Scottish Government to account**

Annual reporting is welcomed as an accountability measure.

**The responsibility placed on local councils and health boards to make local progress reports**

We welcome annual accountability measures which would be in line with our existing practice. Councils and Health Boards should have the flexibility to meet the reporting requirement in the way that best fits their established planning and reporting mechanisms locally.

Glasgow approved its current strategy to tackle poverty in October 2016 (People Make Glasgow Fairer). We would propose to meet the reporting requirements set out in the Act within the framework of that Strategy.

**Although not in this Bill, the Scottish Government has committed to establishing a national poverty and inequality commission. What should this commission’s status and powers be in relation to this Bill.**

The Ministerial Advisory Group on child poverty exists to provide advice to Scottish Ministers on priorities and actions relating to child poverty.

Potentially a national poverty and inequality would have a broader remit across all aspects of tackling poverty. However it would be important to avoid duplication in remits.

We would ask that and future advisory structure on tackling poverty and inequality has a strong read across to economic strategy and inclusive growth and ensures reciprocal dialogue between local areas and the Scottish Government.

From our local work with the Poverty Leadership Panel, we know that is critical to ensure that the voices, experiences and recommendations of people living in poverty are fully included and acted upon.