

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Communities) (Introduced by Executive Member (Early Intervention))	Executive Cabinet	Thursday, 20 October 2022

Communities Cost of Living Action Plan

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activity in relation to mitigating the negative impacts of the cost of living situation and providing support to Chorley residents.

Recommendations to Executive Cabinet

2. To receive comments and feedback from Members on the actions both in place and proposed within the plan attached at Appendix 1.
3. To approve the plan and allow delegation for any changes to be approved by the Executive Member for Early Intervention.

Reasons for recommendations

4. A comprehensive plan is required to ensure that efforts to reduce the burden of the cost of living impacts are coordinated and deployed effectively to make best use of resources and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Other options considered and rejected

5. To not respond to the cost of living situation for residents would result in significant short-term and long term financial, social, and emotional impacts on residents.

Background

6. In recent years Chorley Council has been developing models and approaches to both support and increase community resilience and benefit from assets and capacity within communities. Most recently this was testing during the early phases of the Covid-19 epidemic where the Council's Community Resilience Framework was deployed in response to mobilising and harnessing community capacity to provide critical support to residents.
7. The model and approaches utilised during this period have largely remained in place as the Council's Communities team have continued to focus their locality work plans

on responding to post pandemic issues as communities and individuals recovered from the wide-spread impact of the pandemic.

8. Since April 2022, the locality work has moved significantly towards cost of living impacts and the pieces of work underway are detailed in the Cost of Living Action Plan at Appendix 1.
9. Members will be aware of the wide spread issues connected to the cost of living situation and the forth-coming increase in the level of impact which will affect residents across the country which could lead to significant short term and long term financial, social and emotional issues.
10. A multi-faceted approach is required in responding to this crisis so that support can be delivered in a variety of formats from financial support for those in extreme difficulties to the communication of insights and knowledge on how to cut costs whilst staying safe and well.
11. The community's team has benefited in being able to develop a plan that involves all areas of the service from community engagement and development work to social prescribing, employment, grants and funding, public health, home adaptations and energy programmes.
12. It is proposed that this plan can work alongside programmes to support business and other areas where we need to focus our support, including supporting our own staff members to ensure they are also supported during this time.

Corporate priorities

13. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	A strong local economy
Clean, safe and healthy communities	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area

Climate change and air quality

14. The work noted in this report has an overall positive impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.
15. In particular the report impacts on the following activities:
 - a. net carbon zero by 2030,
 - b. energy use / renewable energy sources
 - c. waste and the use of single use plastics,
 - d. sustainable forms of transport,
 - e. air quality,

Equality and diversity

16. There are no implications anticipated.

Risk

17. Key identifiable risks associated to this action plan relate to financial management of grants and funding and reputational impacts of which have been mitigated and managed through existing governance procedures.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

18. There are no financial implications of this report. Specific activities described within the plan are funded either from within existing Council resources or grant funding provided for that purpose.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

19. There are no concerns or issues with what is proposed from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – Chorley Cost of Living Community Action plan

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