

Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Allard, Convener; Councillor Bouse, Vice Convener; and Councillors Bonsell, Clark, Davidson, Graham, Greig, Hutchison, Lawrence, Mennie and Watson and two Conservative Members to be confirmed.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 3 May 2023

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

The Members of the **ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in the **Council Chamber - Town House** on **WEDNESDAY, 10 MAY 2023 at 10.00 am**. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website: <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

JENNI LAWSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE (LEGAL)

BUSINESS

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

1.1 There are no items of urgent business at this time

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

2.1 Members are requested to determine that any exempt business be considered with the press and public excluded

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

3.1 Members are requested to declare any interests or connections

DEPUTATIONS

- 4.1 There are no requests for deputations at this time

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1 Minute of previous meeting of 8 March 2023 - for approval (Pages 3 - 8)

COMMITTEE PLANNER

- 6.1 Committee Business Planner (Pages 9 - 12)

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 7.1 There are none at this time

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

- 8.1 There are no referrals at this time

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 9.1 Supporting People Through the Cost of Living Crisis - CUS/23/122 (Pages 13 - 24)
- 9.2 Update report on current initiatives - CUS/23/123 (Pages 25 - 28)
- 9.3 Report from External Advisers - CUS/23/124 (Pages 29 - 32)
- 9.4 Report on the Anti-Poverty & Inequality Committee visit to CFINE - CUS/23/159 (Pages 33 - 42)

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- 10.1 No exempt/confidential business

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Emma Robertson, emmrobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee

ABERDEEN, 8 March 2023. Minute of Meeting of the ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Allard, Convener; Councillor Bouse, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Bonsell, Brooks, Clark, Davidson, Graham, Greig, Houghton, Hutchison, Kuszniir, Radley (as substitute for Councillor Mennie) and Watson.

External Advisers: - Evan Adamson (Instant Neighbour) (until Article 10); Dr John Bone (University of Aberdeen) (until Article 10), Sophy Green (Chief Executive of Instant Neighbour) (until Article 10); Maggie Hepburn (Chief Executive of Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations); and Phil Mackie (NHS Grampian) (from Article 8).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located [here](#).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

1. Members were requested to intimate any Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements in respect of the items on the agenda.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Convener advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.1 (Child Poverty Action Plan Update Report), 9.2 (Development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy) and 9.4 (Demographic information on child poverty, in-work poverty and other forms of poverty in the city) as he was a Council appointed representative to Aberdeen Foyer, Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) Board and Grampian Regional Equality Council, however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connection amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the items;
- (ii) to note that Councillor Brooks advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.1 and 9.2 as he was founder and Chairman of the TLC Charity which was part of the Trussell Trust family of food banks however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connection amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the items; and
- (iii) to note that Dr John Bone advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.1 and 9.2 as he was a Board member of CFINE however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connection amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the items.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 11 JANUARY 2023

2. The Committee had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 11 January 2023.

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

8 March 2023

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER

3. The Committee had before it the planner of committee business, as prepared by the Chief Officer – Governance.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the Planner.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

4. There was no Exempt Business.

URGENT BUSINESS

5. There was no Urgent Business.

CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN UPDATE REPORT - CUS/23/061

6. The Committee had before it a half year report by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, that provided an update on the actions being taken by Community Planning Aberdeen to reduce and eradicate child poverty.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the progress in the half yearly report;
- (b) note the progress in submitting the annual report and refreshed Child Poverty Action Plan 2022-26 to Scottish Government; and
- (c) note the progress in establishing the Child Poverty sub-group of the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to circulate the Integrated Impact Assessment in respect of the report;
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Data and Insights, to circulate information on the Data Observatory including where it was located, along with commentary on how best to navigate it; and
- (iii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

8 March 2023

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY - CUS/23/062

7. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, outlining the approach to the development of an anti-poverty strategy.

The report recommended:

that the Committee note the approach to the development of an anti-poverty strategy.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to circulate the report to the Operational Delivery Committee on 17 September 2019 Child Poverty (CUS/19/375) referred to at 3.2 of the report; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendation.

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES - CUS/23/063

8. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment that presented the plans to facilitate Citizens' Assemblies on Poverty and Inequality.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the progress on plans to facilitate Citizens' Assemblies on Poverty and Inequality;
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment in consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance and Chief Officer - Customer Experience to develop a cost profile, explore potential funding mechanisms and report to the Finance and Resources Committee if funding was required;
- (c) agree for further detail to be developed on how local Community Empowerment Groups could be facilitated to support a citizen assembly model at locality level; and
- (d) agree that the report currently planned for the May Committee meeting on a final model for Citizen Assemblies be submitted for the Committee on 30 August 2023 to allow a final proposal to be brought to the Committee.

The Convener moved, seconded by Councillor Greig:-
that the Committee approve the recommendations.

Councillor Watson moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Kuszni:-
that the Committee:-

- (1) Delete recommendations (b), (c) and (d); and
- (2) Replace with:

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

8 March 2023

(b) Takes no further action on setting up a Citizen Assembly on Poverty, as there are already a huge number of existing forums, and tackling poverty will not be helped by setting up yet more. Discussions can happen at this committee, its proposed new working group, Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships, Locality Empowerment Groups, Community Planning Partnerships, and elsewhere.

(c) Requests that the Finance and Resources Committee reallocate any funds previously committed to Citizens Assemblies to alleviate poverty by allocating the £50,000 set aside in the budget (for the provision of Citizen Assemblies poverty mitigation measures) for the continuation of library services and libraries as warm hubs in Aberdeen.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (7) – the Convener, Vice Convener, and Councillors Clark, Davidson, Greig, Hutchison and Radley; for the amendment (6) – Councillors Bonsell, Brooks, Graham, Houghton, Kuszniir and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CHILD POVERTY, IN-WORK POVERTY AND OTHER FORMS OF POVERTY IN THE CITY - CUS/23/067

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, regarding demographic information on child poverty, in-work poverty and other forms of poverty in the city.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the demographic information contained in the report;
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to undertake further work with the External Advisers and working group on poverty demographics in Aberdeen and report back to the Committee in September 2023;
- (c) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to undertake further research into rates of poverty and ‘in work’ poverty in the rented and social housing sectors in Aberdeen and report back to the Committee at a future date;
- (d) instruct the Chief Officer – Customer Experience following consultation with the Chief Officer – Data and Insights, to review how the Council records demographic information of residents, and report back to a future Committee with suggestions on how this data could be more effectively used to target key demographics with a higher risk of experiencing poverty;

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

8 March 2023

- (e) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report back to the Committee on poverty demographics once the most recent census data was available;
- (f) instruct the Chief Officer – Data and Insights to undertake a further survey through City Voice on poverty rates in Aberdeen and report back to a future Committee; and
- (g) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to include in the next six monthly Child Poverty Action Plan report analysis of work being done to support specific demographics outwith the six identified child poverty family groups.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, to circulate the data published by the Community Planning Partnership with regard to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD); and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

EQUALITY OUTCOMES PROGRESS REPORT 2021-2023 - CUS/23/051

10. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment that provided an update on progress achieved at the end of Year 2 of Aberdeen City Council's Equality Outcomes for the year 2021- 2023.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the progress from 2021 – 2023 on the Corporate Equality Outcomes, Employer Equality Outcomes, Education Equality Outcomes and Licensing Board Outcomes as detailed in the Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2021- 2025;
- (b) note that the Staff Governance Committee, Education and Children's Services Committee and Licensing Board would also consider the Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report for 2021-2023;
- (c) approve the 'Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report for 2021-2023' subject to any additional feedback from Staff Governance Committee, Education and Children's Services Committee and Licensing Board;
- (d) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to publish the report on the Council's website by 30 April 2023; and
- (e) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment in consultation with the Chief Officer – Data and Insights and Chief Officer – Customer Experience to review how the Council records the characteristics of our customers in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Scottish Specific Duties, identify any improvements that could be made in this process in line with our business needs, and report back to the relevant committee at a future date.

The Committee resolved:-

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

8 March 2023

to approve the recommendations.

FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE - CUS/23/075

11. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment providing information on the formation of a Working Group to support the work of the Committee.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the approach taken to obtaining nominations for the working group;
- (b) agree that all respondents be invited to an information session on the work of the Committee and that officers subsequently confirm the respondent's commitment for the initial twelve month period;
- (c) instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to thereafter appoint twelve of the respondents to the working group for an initial period of twelve months;
- (d) request that members of the working group identify a member to take the currently vacant position of External Adviser to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee starting in May 2023; and
- (e) request that the working group, with support from the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment and the External Advisers, submit a report to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in June 2023 detailing their thoughts on anti-poverty and inequality issues in Aberdeen and making recommendations on actions believed necessary to tackle these issues.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

- **COUNCILLOR CHRISTIAN ALLARD, Convener.**

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER								
The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
10th May 2023								
Supporting People Through the Cost of Living Crisis - CUS/23/122	At the meeting of Operational Delivery Committee on 31 August 2022, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report to a future Committee on the outcomes achieved by the allocation of funds; to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report to the relevant committee on the provision of warm spaces within Aberdeen and explore any support that can be provided to communities visiting them; and should additional resources be made available by either the UK or Scottish Government for fuel and the cost of living crisis, to instruct the relevant Chief Officer to report to the relevant committee with options for the best allocation of these funds.		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		Transferred from Operational Delivery Committee.
Update report on current initiatives - CUS/23/123	The report will provide an update to committee on ongoing initiatives in relation to food insecurity and fuel poverty, and on funded programmes.		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1, 1.8, 1.14		
Report from External Advisers - CUS/23/124	To provide an update to committee on ongoing initiatives in relation to research into poverty and inequality.		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		
Report on Anti-Poverty & Inequality Committee visit to CFINE - CUS/23/159	To provide the Committee with a report following the Committee visit to CFINE on 8 March 2023		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		
21st June 2023								
Child Poverty Action Report 2022/23	Agree the submission of Child Poverty Action Plans and Reports to the Scottish Government		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	2.1		
Formation of a working group to support the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee	The Committee agreed on 8 March 2023 to request that the working group, with support from the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment and the External Advisers, submit a report to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee in June 2023 detailing their thoughts on anti-poverty and inequality issues in Aberdeen and making recommendations on actions believed necessary to tackle these issues.		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.3		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2	30th August 2023								
11	30th August 2023								
12	Annual Committee Effectiveness Report	To present the annual Committee Effectiveness report		Andy MacDonald		Customer	GD 8.5		
13	Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions on preventing homelessness and improving outcomes	At the Council meeting on 13 July 2022 the Council resolved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); to agree that the Co-Leaders of the Council countersign the MoU on behalf of the Council; and to agree that update reports for the MoU be submitted on a six-monthly basis to the relevant committee.		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	2.3		
14	Child Poverty Action Plan update	At the Operational Delivery Committee on 13 January 2021, it was agreed that committee receives a half yearly report on the actions being taken by Community Planning Aberdeen to reduce and eradicate child poverty. Last reported to APIC on 8 March 2023, when it was also agreed (CUS/23/067) to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to include in the next six monthly Child Poverty Action Plan report analysis of work being done to support specific demographics outwith the six identified child poverty family groups		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		Transferred from Operational Delivery Committee.
15	Citizens' Assemblies	To note detailed plans and costs for a Citizens' Assembly (while noting that budget approval would require to be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee).	At the Committee on 8 March 2023, Members agreed (CUS/23/063) that the report planned for May 2023 be submitted for the Committee on 30 August 2023 to allow a final proposal to be brought.	Jacqui McKenzie/ Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.2, 1.3		
16	1st November 2023								
17	Anti Poverty Strategy	At the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee on 8 March 2023, Members noted the approach to the development of an anti-poverty strategy (CUS/23/062) and agreed that the Strategy would be developed and submitted to Committee on 1 November 2023.		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	2.8.1		
18	Child Poverty Action Plan update report	At the Operational Delivery Committee on 13 January 2021, it was agreed that committee receives a half yearly report on the actions being taken by Community Planning Aberdeen to reduce and eradicate child poverty. Last reported to API on 8 March 2023.		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		
19	Demographic information on child poverty, in-work poverty and other forms of poverty in the city	Committee agreed on 8 March 2023 to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to undertake further work with the External advisers and working group on poverty demographics in Aberdeen and report back to this Committee.		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment		1.1		
20	Beyond 2023 or date not confirmed.								

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
21	Child Poverty Action Plan Annual statutory report.	At the meeting of Operational Delivery Committee on 31 August 2022, it was agreed to instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to review the Council’s approach to tackling Child Poverty, in conjunction with Community Planning Partners through the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti - Poverty group, and bring a report back to the relevant Committee detailing a refreshed action plan for 2022-2026.		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		Transferred from Operational Delivery Committee.
22	Demographic information on child poverty, in-work poverty and other forms of poverty in the city	At the Committee on 8 March 2023, it was agreed (CUS/23/067) to: (1) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to undertake further research into rates of poverty and ‘in work’ poverty in the rented and social housing sectors in Aberdeen and report back to this Committee at a future date; (2) Instruct the Chief Officer – Customer Experience following consultation with the Chief Officer – Data and Insights, to review how the Council records demographic information of residents, and report back to a future Committee with suggestions on how this data can be more effectively used to target key demographics with a higher risk of experiencing poverty; (3) instruct the Chief Officer – Data and Insights to undertake a further survey through City Voice on poverty rates in Aberdeen and report back to a future Committee; and (4) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to report back to this Committee on poverty demographics once the most recent census data was available.		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		
23	Equality Outcomes Progress Report	To provide an update on the progress achieved at the end of Year 3 of Aberdeen City Council’s Equality Outcomes for 2021-25. Last reported to Committee on 8 March 2023.		Baldeep McGarry	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	2.2		

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	10 May 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Supporting People through the Cost of Living Crisis
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/122
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	Paul Tytler
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the Outcomes achieved from the allocation of Cost of Living Funding, to report on the provision of Warm Spaces and support for communities visiting them and update on any additional resources from the Scottish or UK Governments.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the progress in delivery of the outcomes from the Cost of Living Funding.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Cost of Living Funding

- 3.1 The [Operational Delivery Committee on 31 August 2022](#) resolved from the paper [Supporting People through the Cost of Living Crisis](#) to allocate £1m as follows:
- (i) to allocate £430,000 to Community Food Customer Initiatives North East (CFINE) for investment in food procurement, development of food pantries (300 memberships, weekly food shops, management and admin); and Support, Advice, Finance and Education team support;
 - (ii) to allocate £300,000 to the Scottish Welfare Fund provision to reinstate medium priority applications to the end of March 2023;
 - (iii) to allocate £100,000 to SCARF to assist in alleviating fuel poverty through distribution of fuel vouchers and trialling a 'cash first' approach;
 - (iv) to allocate £100,000 to ABZ works to support 100 lone parent families through existing employability programmes;
 - (v) to allocate £45,000 to the provision of insulation measures for 500 homes;

- (vi) to allocate £25,000 to establish a Family Wellbeing Fund, to support families through the provision of advice and to develop a support plan.

3.2 The funds were allocated during September and early October, following the development of Service Level Agreements with external partners, who have submitted quarterly monitoring reports since then. Updates have been sought for this report and are detailed below. Understandably work was required to ensure robust processes were in place to support the effective delivery of these services and therefore in some instances funding and activity has been carried over into 2023/24.

3.3 In summary, the position is as follows:

	Allocation	Spend	Outcomes
Cfine	£430k	£328k	120,000 meals equivalent 68 food members supported 300 new pantry members
SWF	£300k	£300k	Distribution of £300k through SWF awards. It is not possible to disaggregate the numbers from the overall SWF.
SCARF	£100k (fuel) £45k (insulation)	£93k	993 households 390 home visits
ABZ works	£100k	£25k committed £14k spend	25 lone parents
FIT Team	£25k	£500	2 families

Updates on each element of funding are below.

Cfine Procurement and Distribution of Food

3.3.1 In October 2022, CFINE undertook planning for the procurement and distribution of food. This involved re-engaging with suppliers which CFINE purchased food from during the pandemic. As CFINE was an existing customer, suppliers confirmed that the average 6-month lead time for new customers would not apply, allowing for far quicker access to essential bulk food supplies.

3.3.2 Following feedback gathered from Community Food Members (CFMs), the types of food most needed were identified as non-perishable ambient food (such as dried pasta, tinned soup, cooking sauce etc.). CFINE proceeded to place a number of orders, which were typically 26 pallets at a time (a full lorry load to maximise value for money).

3.3.3 A list was drawn up based on capacity to receive pallet-sized loads (based on equivalent of around 100 food parcels per pallet). These included Middlefield

Community Project, Instant Neighbour, Cummings Park Community Centre, Aberdeen Cyrenians, Northfield Community Centre, Inchgarth Community Centre, Fersands & Fountain Community Project, Tillydrone Community Flat and others.

- 3.3.4 For other CFMs which were less equipped to distribute larger quantities, the purchased food was incorporated into local delivery runs of surplus food, providing a welcome addition to existing stocks.
- 3.3.5 CFINE communicated with partners through Food Poverty Action Aberdeen (FPAA) explaining the food purchase and distribution and requested that any partners needing to access additional food supplies to contact them.
- 3.3.6 Specific food was purchased for distribution to Community Food Pantries, with CFINE gathering information from Pantry members about their needs/preferences.
- 3.3.7 At the time of writing (28th March), a total of 65.55 tonnes of food (notional equivalent to over 120,000 meals) has been distributed to 68 Community Food Members across the city. Deliveries have included the additional provision of surplus food including fresh fruit and vegetables.
- 3.3.8 The total spend on food procurement to date is £145,778, with another order currently in progress for imminent delivery and onward distribution. It is expected that the funds will be fully spent by the end of May 2023 with the following actions:
- Continue procurement of food from our suppliers based on feedback from partner organisations and pantry members.
 - Storage, processing, allocation, and distribution from CFINE's warehouse in Aberdeen, utilizing their fleet of vans, and increased capacity due to recruitment of new volunteers and ongoing employability trainees, adding value to their training/work experience.
 - Continuing to respond to new requests from community organisations requiring access to food supplies as required and thus recruiting new CFM's which will ensure a wider spread of distribution going forward over 23/24.
 - Supplementing purchased food with surplus via FareShare to maximise added value and choice.
 - Ensure on-going engagement with CFM's across the city to ensure CFINE are providing appropriate food depending on the needs of the organisation and communities.
 - Continue the development of community pantries and extend the mobile service to other areas which are identified as areas of need.

SAFE Team

- 3.3.10 CFINE have fully spent the allocation for Support, Advice, Finance and Education (SAFE) team advice, which has been key in providing advice, support and information on welfare/benefits and budgeting, and the team have seen a significant increase in demand for these services.

3.3.11 The funding allocated towards SAFE work has been utilised to employ a new staff member to undertake essential outreach work and provide additional capacity in supporting beneficiaries identify and claim benefit entitlement, access emergency funding such as via the Scottish Welfare Fund, maximise household income via budgeting advice, and access to additional support.

3.3.12 Key to this post is the growing connections being made across the priority communities with the mobile pantry service. Additional to existing partnerships, links are also now in place with other organisations where SAFE support can provide benefit e.g., Salvation Army, Abernecessities, Social Security Scotland, DWP, HomeStart and Aberdeen Foyer.

3.3.13 The SAFE Outreach worker has been key in identifying and supporting beneficiaries in priority communities and this has led to an increase in the uptake of financial capability/budgeting support and advice. Work is ongoing to continue to maximise positive outcomes for beneficiaries.

3.3.14 In addition, the SAFE team has been working in partnership with SCARF to provide access to energy/fuel cards for beneficiaries who are struggling due to increasing costs.

Community Pantry Memberships

3.3.15 CFINE has fully spent the allocation for 300 free memberships for community pantries, including Woodside Community Centre. This ensures members have access to a range of fresh, frozen, and ambient products whereby they can 'shop' and select the items they require. The value of a typical 'shop' is normally in excess of £25 and helps reduce family expenditure on these items – particularly those which would otherwise be financially unviable for those on low incomes (e.g., meat).

3.3.16 Purchases have been made using the allocated funding for pantry specific food which tends to be based on retail/supermarket stock and is well received by members. In addition to food, CFINE provides a range of household essentials including toiletries, period products, washing powder etc, all of which go towards reducing household expenditure for residents who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

Scottish Welfare Fund

3.4 The additional allocation of £300k was transferred to the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) budget. This allowed the team to continue to support medium as well as high level priorities. It is not possible to disaggregate the numbers from SWF overall funding. Over the last ten years, there has been a significant increase in applications, increasing by 70% for Community Care Grants (CCG) and 185% for Crisis Grants (CG). Service standards are reported to Communities Housing & Public Protection committee and the aim is 90% for CG's (next working day) and 50% for CCG's (15 working days). The performance figures for 2022/23 have not yet been finalised, but at the end of Q3 were 96% and 90% respectively.

SCARF – alleviating fuel poverty (100k) and insulation (£45k)

- 3.5 SCARF undertook to promote and deliver fuel vouchers and packs on insulating materials (LED bulbs, radiator reflectors etc).
- 3.6 It was essential to ensure that the programme was effectively established and that robust systems were implemented at the outset. In addition the support was promoted across communities and supplies of insulation materials were procured. It is expected that activity and spend will be completed by the end of April.
- 3.7 A total of 993 households have been supported with fuel bills, a total of £93,345 of the £100k allocated, the balance will be spent during April 2023. Scarf carried out 390 home visits. There were 374 lone parents supported and 619 families with children.
- 3.8 A case study from an adviser:

Client had difficulties after migrating supplier, the supplier was asking for more than they could afford for a monthly payment and were seemingly not cooperative enough to help lower it. I gathered data and the client's income to calculate a maximum amount they could afford due to being only on benefits currently, we phoned the supplier together and set up SCARF as 3rd party, we then found out the arrears amount the client has which was £759.50. After this we agreed to set up a standing order of £120 even though the amount required was £190 this helped lower the monthly debt growth and keep any debt collection letters off the client. I then gathered details for a Home Heating Support Fund application and was awarded for the client an amount of £1459.50 which cleared the debt and added a further £700 in credit to the clients account to keep them out of debt.

- 3.9 A total of £20,262 was spent on insulation and energy efficiency measures from the £45k allocated. This included packs of LED bulbs, radiator reflectors etc. The remaining £24,738 will be spent early in 23/24 and arose largely due to the extended lead time at the outset in procuring supplies of the required items.

ABZ Works Lone Parent Support

- 3.10 There are currently 25 lone parents receiving money through this scheme so far, the majority being female. Employment sectors include care, admin, cleaning, employability, hospitality, education, childcare, retail, energy, and manufacturing/production, with roles across the public, private and third sectors. The majority are part-time roles, mostly permanent contracts, with some fixed term contracts and in-work support is continuing for all.

- 3.11 £25k has been committed to those lone parents, with £14,371 paid out. There are 152 single parents on the employability books currently (includes the 25 who've received the funding). There are pilot projects currently running for lone parents who are almost work ready, and a contract to provide employability support to lone parents at stage 3 of the employability pipeline will shortly be in place, so the funding is still required and will conclude in 2023/24.
- 3.12 The funds are used to support childcare, travel, work clothes, lunches at work, home working equipment, holiday childcare, winter coat and footwear, rent deposit. The majority of people receive the money over three months, but exceptions are made where needed – eg one parent who was behind on childcare payments and at risk of losing the place, which would have prevented her from taking up a job offer, got the £1k in a single payment to clear that debt and preserve the childcare place.
- 3.13 Work was undertaken with the Department of Work and Pensions to ensure there was no impact on existing benefit entitlements through the provision of the grants. The team work closely with DWP to identify people who are work ready and run information sessions for them. Anecdotally, the £1k payment is proving to be a real motivator, in that the funding is being seen by parents as removing financial barriers preventing them from entering the workplace and there is attitudinal change from 'I can't afford to work,' to 'I want to work, this money would enable me to work' and stimulating serious attempts to secure employment.
- 3.14 Every parent who is offered the funding is referred to the FIT team and DWP to ensure they are getting the benefits and support they are entitled to.

Family Wellbeing Fund

- 3.15 The Financial Inclusion Team (FIT) developed the Family Wellbeing Fund (FWF) approach to support families through the provision of advice and to develop a support plan linked to topics such as money advice, fuel payments and employability. As these households are identifiable, this would work by providing an initial payment of £100 to the household, with a second payment of £150 as an incentive to engage with services to maximise their income. This will help support those that need further support but are just above the thresholds for mainstream help available. The aim was to support 100 families to March 2023 with a cost of £25,000.
- 3.16 An online application form was created and a Data Protection Impact Assessment completed, to ensure the protection of people and data.
- 3.17 The FIT team met with all advice agencies (CAB, CFINE, Home Start) to encourage their staff to apply for people accessing their service. There have been two referrals to the programme to date, both lone parents with three and four children respectively. The families had been engaged with the FIT team

but are now doing so more widely. Spend so far has been £500 from the £25k allocated. Further work will be undertaken to promote the fund. In addition, data from the Revenue and Benefits Team will be analysed to explore the potential to identify families that would meet the criteria and target them for support. It is anticipated that this will be effective and enable funds to be directed to those families requiring support.

Warm Spaces

- 3.19 Warm Spaces have been established across this city, with a mix of Council premises and community and third sector organisations providing support. Information can be found at <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/people-and-communities/warm-spaces>. There are 52 venues across community centres, libraries, churches, and public spaces.
- 3.20 Support provided through Warm Spaces includes a range of activities and opportunities offered across the city, from offering a welcoming warm space, signposting to information, access to internet, a hot drink, hot meal, access to participate in centre programmes or specific lead warm space activities such as reading newspapers, sustainable crafting, yoga, reading corners and board games.
- 3.21 Developments across the city October 22– March 23 include:
- City wide Warm Space Directory up and running
 - Branding for WarmSpace introduced
 - Volunteer remit created & training opportunities for volunteers created. 28 accessed training opportunities
 - Staying Well & Warm Roadshow - 4 roadshows took place offering a range of supports and advice in response to the cost-of-living crisis. (Central library, Cummings Park, Tillydrone Community Campus & Kincorth Community Centre) A wide range of partner agencies attended – CFINE-safe team, Scarf, Home Energy Scotland, Financial Inclusion, Library service, Grampian Credit Union, Care & Repair, NHS vaccination team, Family & Adult Learning, Adult Learning, Social Security Scotland, Health Point, health Improvement team and Housing. Over 110 people were given advice & information.
 - Funding enabled Community Development to purchase blankets, food, kitchen equipment, training, and resources for activities to support the initial pilot centres. As visits to other Warm Space community spaces happened, we were able to respond and build capacity in community venues by helping with kitchen equipment and food in order to respond to their community's needs.

- 3.22 From a community perspective each Warm Space developed its own unique offer. Examples of this have been free warm drinks, spaces to read paper, enjoy games or participate in the community centre programme. Overall, there has been an increase in the development of centres in providing community meals – soup'n' sarnies, community breakfasts, community meals and hot lunches and increase in the use of community food pantries.
- 3.23 The City Growth and Resources Committee on 21st June 2022 approved an allocation through the [External Funding](#) paper for an allocation from the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) fund of £407,589 for the Hardship Fund proposal. This was distributed as the Covid Recovery Fund (to avoid confusion with earlier Scottish Government Hardship Fund) to third party and community organisations. Among a wide range of supports, the fund supported Warm Space activities. The outcomes from that funding are in the process of being collated and may offer further insight into delivery of Warm Space activities and can be reported to a future committee.

External Advisers

- 3.24 The external advisers have acknowledged the funding allocated and the progress made as outlined in this report. They have highlighted the need to develop the process and sustainability of emergency and community food provision, along with outreach services, to support the third sector in managing the scale of demand being experienced, working to reduce and remove the need. This will now be one of themes to be considered and further developed in the workshop with the external advisers.

Additional measures

- 3.25 Further measures to support people include:
- for anyone in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment, an automatic increase to £25 per week from 14 November 2022. Applications for the Scottish Child Payment will also be open to all eligible under 16s from that date, with all payments backdated to the date of application. These payments are administered by Social Security Scotland (SSS);
 - the introduction of the new Winter Heating Payment allowance which guarantees a £50 annual payment to around 400,000 low income households (administered by SSS);
 - doubling of the Fuel Insecurity Fund to £20 million in 2022-23, to help households at risk of self-disconnection or self-rationing energy use, administered by Third Sector;
 - widening eligibility for the Tenant Grant Fund, to support those struggling with increasing costs;
 - giving local authorities more flexibility to take account of energy bills in their prioritisation of households for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and an increase in DHP funding of £5 million.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Some of the funding allocation has been carried forward into 2023/24 as an earmarked sum and spending is expected to be complete early in 2023/24. A final update will be brought forward to a future committee.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The implementation of the insulation measure to help alleviate fuel poverty by improving energy efficiency can be expected to have a small but positive impact on the environment but will be difficult to measure the impact.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	There is a risk that failing to support people struggling to meet the increased cost of living could lead to longer term economic harm.	Delivery of recommendations to help mitigate the cost of living impacts for the most vulnerable, alongside work and support across services, partners and third sector.	L	Yes
Compliance	There is a risk of failing to comply with a Council decision to spend the allocated £1m to help the most vulnerable in our community	Delivery of recommendations to help mitigate the cost of living impacts for the most vulnerable, alongside work and support across services, partners and third sector.	L	Yes

	with energy costs.			
Operational	The project delivery in this report required minimal additional resource from the Council.	Strong partnership working with organisations identified will ensure this risk is minimised.	L	Yes
Financial	No significant risk identified as the £1m has already been budgeted			
Reputational	There is a risk that failing to support people struggling to meet the increased cost of living could lead to reputational damage.	The delivery described in this report demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting people with allocated budgets.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	The environmental impact of the insulation measures will be small, although positive	Work with partners to ensure uptake of the measures improves.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	The delivery of outcomes described in this report align with the Partnership agreement with regard to the mitigation of poverty, and specifically the pledge for an urgent report into the effects of poverty on the city.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26	

Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The outcomes described in this paper impact on stretch outcome 1 – No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The outcomes described in this paper impact on Prosperous People Outcomes: 7 - 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods, will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026 11 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The outcomes described in this paper impact on prosperous place outcome 13 - Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.
Regional and City Strategies	There will be a positive (small) impact on efforts to reduce carbon emissions through the recommendations on tackling fuel poverty.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	n/a

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Supporting People through the Cost of Living Crisis CUS/22/151
- 10.2 External Funding COM/22/111

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	10 May 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Update on Current Initiatives
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/123
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	Paul Tytler
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1, 1.8, 1.14

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates Committee on ongoing initiatives in relation to food security and fuel poverty and on funded programmes.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the update on food security and fuel poverty, and that funded programmes are reported through the report Supporting People through the Cost of Living.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Food Security

- 3.1 The Council agreed at the budget meeting on 1st March 2023 a further allocation of £500k to support the procurement of food to supplement supplies across the city's food banks. The food will be procured through Cfine, working through the local Fareshare network and Food Poverty Action Aberdeen to distribute the food to foodbanks across the city.
- 3.2 This will build on the allocation for food procurement provided through the Cost of Living funding allocated by the Council in 2022/23, reported to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 10th May 2023 through the Supporting People through the Cost of Living report.
- 3.3 Through the [Health Determinants Research Collaboration](#) (HDRC), work is in progress on the development of an Infant Food Security Protocol. The protocol focuses on causes and risk factors, as well as interventions. Work is also underway to map food security services across the City, identifying services and interventions, with a workshop planned for 12th May 2023.

Fuel Poverty

3.5 The UK Government has extended the Energy Price Guarantee, which caps typical energy bills at £2,500. It will be maintained at the same level for a further three months over April, May, and June, worth £160 in total for a typical household.

3.6 The UK Government has implemented the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Fund (£400 grant) and Alternative Fuel Alternative Fund (£200 grant), for people who do not automatically receive the energy support grant, and for people who use alternative energy sources. This is being delivered through Aberdeen City Council's Revenue and Benefits Team. The uptake to date is:

Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund:

- Applications received to date: 152
- Applications awarded to date: 109
- Applications declined to date: 17
- In progress: 26

Alternative Fuel Alternative Fund:

- Applications received to date: 107
- Applications awarded to date: 87
- Applications declined to date: 9
- In progress: 11

3.7 Support for those affected by fuel poverty continues to be delivered through the following:

SCARF – continues to provide free and impartial advice and support on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

District heating – the development of a new network in Torry, link to the new Energy from Waste facility.

Market Street link – Council agreed funding to connect the new network in Torry with the existing district heating network through Aberdeen Heat and Power, increasing capacity and supporting the expansion of district heating.

Funded Programmes

3.6 The update on Council funding in respect of the Cost of Living Funding, including food and fuel, is reported separately to Committee in the report Supporting People through the Cost of Living.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	There are no proposals in this report
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There are no proposals in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There are no proposals in this report
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	There are no proposals in this report
Regional and City Strategies	There are no proposals in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required as there are no proposals in this report.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	10 May 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Report from External Advisers
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/124
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	External advisers; Paul Tytler
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the committee with a report from the External Advisers, outlining the agreed ways of working and commitments.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the proposed ways of working with the External Advisers.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 On 13 October 2022, Council agreed the appointment of five external advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee, with a sixth position being left vacant.
- 3.2 The External Advisers met with officers on 18 April 2023 to confirm how they can best make a valuable contribution to the work of the committee, drawing on their range of experiences to drive improved outcomes for the citizens of Aberdeen.

The following commitments were agreed:

- To work with officers to contribute to and help shape the forward agenda for the committee. This will include revisiting the initial report prepared by advisers (submitted to committee in November 2022) to identify areas for development and action;
- To adopt a co-design and co-authoring approach, aligned to areas of expertise and experience so advisers can add most value;

- To agree areas of work where advisers can support the development and where appropriate, the delivery of actions; and
- To participate in a session with officers to develop understanding of committee processes and structures.

A collaborative workshop will be scheduled to progress these commitments.

3.3 The following next steps were agreed:

- Schedule the workshop session in May
- Agree priorities and initiatives for development and action
- Agree input to development of reports for future committees – including Citizen Assemblies and the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	There is no proposal in this report
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Regional and City Strategies	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment is not required as there is no proposal for Committee to consider.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 External Advisers Report CUS/22/266

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	10 May 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	CFINE Visit
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/159
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	Paul Tytler
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a report following the Committee visit to CFINE on 8 March 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the information provided following the visit to Cfine; and
- 2.2 Thank all those at CFINE, including the many volunteers, who welcomed the Committee and provided an informative and interesting afternoon.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 On 8 March 2023, the Anti-Poverty Committee visited CFINE as part of the programme of visits to key organisations. Information provided as part of the visit is attached at Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	There is no proposal in this report
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Regional and City Strategies	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment is not required as there is no proposal for Committee to consider.

Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Paul Tytler
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Anti-Poverty & Inequality Committee Visit

Wednesday 8th March 2023

Summary

Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE)

ALL surplus from CFINE's enterprise activities supports our social and community support services for and with disadvantaged, vulnerable, low-income individuals, families and communities in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and in Moray and Highlands and Islands (FareShare only). **Accurate at time of writing, August, 2022.**

CFINE's Support Services (not in any particular order):

- **Community Food Outlets** (CFO) across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire making affordable produce accessible to disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals, families, and communities.
- **300 volunteers, work placements and supported trainees** recruited, trained, and supported annually.
- **The Fruit Mart**, Skelton Street, Peterhead, supports 22 CFO's, sells fresh produce, up to 20 adults with learning difficulties in supported training.
- **FareShare Grampian, Highlands and Islands** where food is distributed to people in food poverty including through 330 'Community Food Members' across Grampian and Highlands and Islands. In 21/22, 890 tonnes of produce, saving 3,738 tonnes of carbon emissions, equates to 2,119,047 million meals; a value of £1,342,887.
- Lead partner in the 75 partners-strong **Food Poverty Action Aberdeen** (FPPA). CFINE represents, with others, FPPA on **Aberdeen City Council's 'Tackling Poverty Group'**.
- CFINE's own **food bank** distributed 23,937 emergency parcels in 21/22.
- 22 (41%) of 53 **employees** recruited from our priority communities.
- **SAFE** (Support, Advice, Finance, Education) in 21/22, supported 2,015 beneficiaries, securing £1,586,372 in benefits.
- **HOPE** project supports ex- offenders through work experience, SAFE, volunteering, employability.
- **'Cook at the Nook'** (CATN), community training kitchen provides free 'healthy cooking on a budget' training.
- **'Vegaronitooon'**, home delivery service of fruit and vegetables delivered with electric cargo bikes.
- Lead partner in **Sustainable Food Places Partnership Aberdeen** hosting Granite City Good Food; secured silver award.
- **Access to Free Period Products** - CFINE ran pilot on behalf of The Scottish Government, evaluating same, resulting in the roll out of a national scheme in Scotland (first country in the world).
- **Community Growing** supporting 14 community growing spaces and >80 community growers.
- 1 static and 2 mobile **Community Food Pantries** making affordable food accessible to low-income families.
- CFINE is a partner in Aberdeen's 'Food and Fun' programme providing food during the school holidays.
- Supported the Syrian, and now Afghan and Ukrainian, **refugees**.
- Individual and group **CBT sessions** improving mental health and wellbeing.

Enterprise Activities (activities to generate income - all surplus invested in our social/community support services (see above). Purchased locally, whenever possible, to contribute to the local economy and the environment.

- **Selling produce**, fruit, veg, eggs, pulses, healthy snacks (households and businesses).
- Selling **corporate volunteering and 'team building'** through 'Ready Steady Cook' type activities in CATN.
- **'Cook school'** classes and rental of Cook at the 'Nook.
- **Rental** of office space.

CFINE's Funders

CFINE is supported by a large number of corporates and the general public through financial and food donations plus through a number of grants.

Want more information? Please contact CFINE - 01224 596156 / info@cfine.org / www.cfine.org

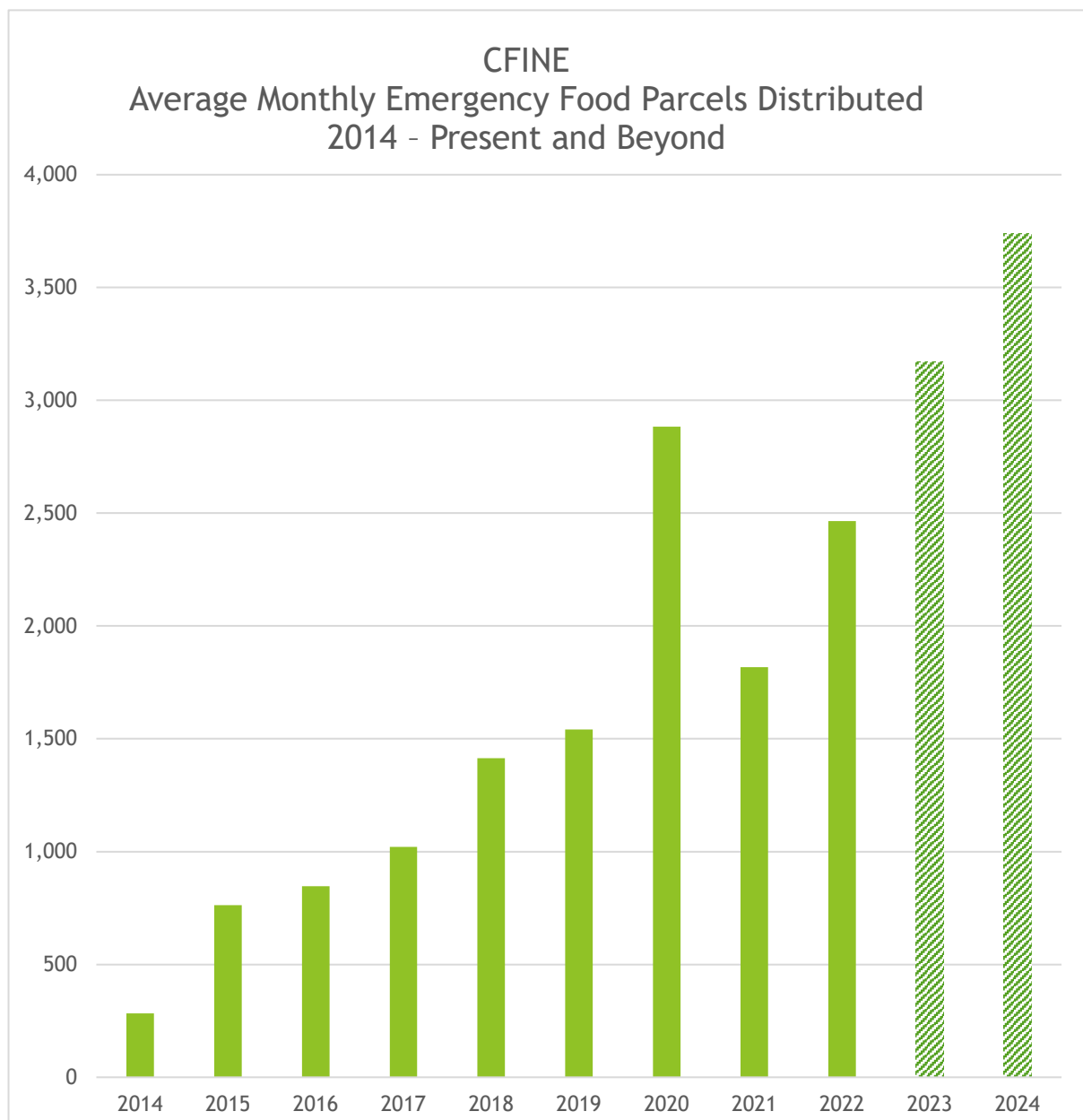
'Thank you for taking the time to read about CFINE, our support services and enterprise activities. Your support is greatly appreciated'

Fiona Rae, CEO



Overview – Cost of Living Crisis

- The current situation - increasing levels of demand for support services e.g. emergency food access, pantry memberships & SAFE support.
- (Need for) wrap-around support – more than food. Cash first approaches, maximising household income.
- Partnership approach (FPAA, network of Community Food Members, FAF partners)
- Looking ahead – anticipate continued increase in demand.



Wrap-around Support

- CFINE's position is that food banks in themselves are not helpful; they create dependence, erode dignity, and do not change the status quo, however they are essential when people have no other way of accessing food.
- It's crucial that wrap-around services are offered to tackle underlying causes of someone requesting emergency food and this approach is central to CFINE.
- CFINE uses food as a vehicle for community engagement and development.
- CFINE has for many years adopted a cash-first approach, maximising household income and ensuring beneficiaries have access to appropriate welfare benefits etc.
- Underpinning all is a commitment to person-centred inclusive support, eg supporting volunteers and beneficiaries from priority communities.

Importance of Partnership Working

- No single organisation can solve the significant problems associated with poverty.
- Working in partnership is critical in alleviating both symptoms and underlying causes of poverty.
- CFINE is lead partner of Food Poverty Action Aberdeen, which aims to coordinate responses to food insecurity in the city.
- CFINE has developed a network of Community Food Members, redistributing surplus food to support individuals and families.
- Strategic partnerships are key to CFINE's impact; Aberdeen City Council, The Scottish Government, FareShare UK, Granite City Good Food, the wider third sector, and many others.

Looking Ahead

- We anticipate a continued increase in demand for CFINE's services. The situation being faced by our beneficiaries is dire, and we will continue to support beneficiaries with wrap-around support.

What is needed (non-exhaustive)

- Strengthening existing and new partnerships across sectors.
- Increased capacity to manage demand increases.
- Further development of dignified access to food and access to wraparound services.
- Further raising of awareness of issues for policy-makers and others, capturing lived experience of beneficiaries to provide insight and information which can contribute to the development of solutions to the problems being faced.
- Comprehensive anti-poverty strategy with key stakeholder engagement to inform development and crucially delivery of actions to affect change.
- A range of further actions/interventions at local, regional, and national levels aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty.