

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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