

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	12 June 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Working in Partnership for Aberdeen - Supporting people with the cost of living
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/24/152
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	-
REPORT AUTHOR	Paul Tytler
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1, 3.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the meeting on 6th March 2024, the Council resolved to acknowledge the provision of £1million to mitigate against the ongoing cost of living crisis and instruct the Director of Corporate Services to report to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee with options for how the Council could use the £1million to address poverty in the city, with the Committee required to make recommendations to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the proposed allocation of funds at 3.6
- 2.2 Instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to submit the approved recommendations for allocation of funds to the Council meeting on 3rd July 2024.
- 2.3 Instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to bring an update on spend, progress, any reallocation of resources and further proposals for the balance of funding to the meeting of the Committee on 28 August 2024.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Following the decision at the Council on 6th March 2024, engagement took place with the external advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee to determine the proposals for Supporting People with the Cost of Living funding to be submitted to consideration by the committee.
- 3.2 Principles for the funding were established with the external advisers to the committee to guide the process as follows:

- Alleviation of poverty and achieve best outcomes for people
- Consider a seasonal approach to reflect differing needs, with more than one allocation;
- Ensure coverage of range of poverty issues, addressing crisis needs and prevention

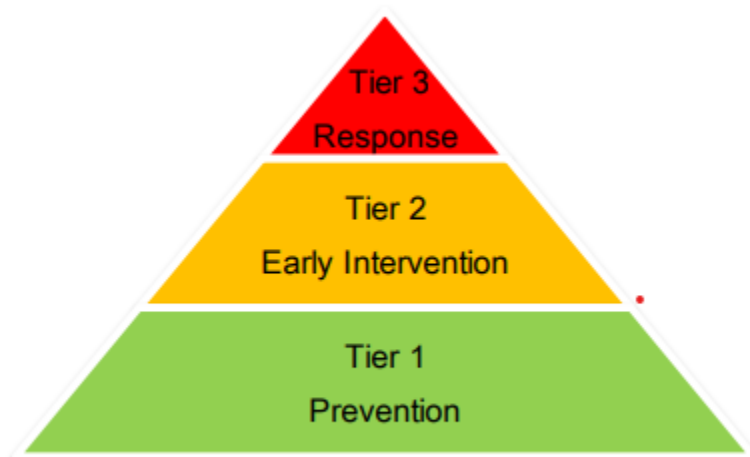
3.3 In addition to engaging with the external advisers to the committee, further engagement took place through the Council’s Strategy Board, the Health and Social Care Partnership, the employability team and through ACVO. A range of ideas were considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group (OIG) on 9th May 2024. The external advisers and OIG members supported all of the proposals for submission to the committee.

3.4 The Council considered a paper on [Prevention and Early Intervention](#) at the meeting on 1st March 2023, supporting a shift to prevention through adopting a tiered model approach to prevention. As part of this model, definitions were developed:

- To undertake the tiered analysis and achieve this deliberate shift, it is necessary to have a set of agreed definitions, for ‘prevention’; ‘early intervention’ and ‘harm’; and with an important distinction to be drawn between human harm and resource demand:

Category	Definition	Origin of demand
Prevention	Taking action to prevent the occurrence of harm through universal measures	Human and Resource
Early Intervention	Interventions that ward off the initial onset of harm and create empowered resilient communities and staff	Human demand
Early Intervention	Intervening before further harm takes place in a way that avoids the later costs in both human and financial terms of handling the consequences of that harm	Resource demand
Harm	A negative impact on humans, the institution or resources available	Human and Resource

3.5 The tiered model is reflected as follows:



3.6 The proposals recommended to the Committee are set out in the table below. The table includes an assessment against the tiered impact of the proposals – some interventions may deliver against more than one, but an assessment has been made of the primary impact.

Priority	Lead	Action	Impact	£allocation	Options
Food	Cfine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food procurement • SAFE mobile/pantry outreach • 500 pantry memberships/w weekly shops • Infant formula (cash first) 	Response Early Intervention Prevention Prevention	£251, 260 (6 months)	Cost includes all options under the actions, could be selective
Fuel	SCARF	Fuel vouchers energy advice	Response Prevention	£50,000	Balance of demand may be more in winter, further consideration in second round
Housing	ACC Revs	Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) – claimants in private	Early Intervention	£100k	Could also be subject of second

	and Bens	sector, limited by LHA allowances, to support rent costs			round of proposals
School costs	ACC Revs and Bens	Contribution to a £10 top-up of school clothing grant (£6 from SG) approx. 5000 children	Prevention	£20k	This is in addition to the £20/child for winter clothing
Health	H&SCP	Telecare / Tec – costed at annual charge to support 100 low-income families but build in benefits check with each application	Prevention	£20, 020	Full year cost. Could be split but simpler to allocate for full year?
Health	H&SCP	Power of Attorney (PoA) PoA – awareness – would be keen to link with Shmu re messaging / support for legal aid / payment if required for low income individuals in targeted areas based upon data provided	Prevention lack of PoA results in delayed discharge, 80% of cases from SIMD 1	£10,000 40 people in SIMD 1 X £250 cost of PoA	Full year cost, securing legal aid could reduce spend. Awareness costs to be determined
Childcare costs	ABZ Works	Supporting families in to employment	Prevention	£60k	Full year cost
Poverty	SHMU	Produce a series of podcasts and short films, capturing and platforming the lived experience of those who have been affected by poverty. This would include exploring the issues affecting particular groups in more depth, for example lone parents, disabled people, those affected by No Recourse to Public Funds, and other intersectionalities, developing a stronger	Prevention Outcomes: Increased understanding of the extent and impact of poverty, and the support options available in the City Individuals are empowered by taking part in a	£20k	full year cost

		sense of the issues and barriers experienced by people and communities within an Aberdeen context.	challenge poverty campaign Increased uptake of relevant services Stigma around poverty continues to be challenged		
Total				£531,280	

3.7 Consideration was given to the needs of the Scottish Welfare Fund in maintaining medium priority applications, but at this time it was not felt to be required. It will likely be a consideration in the further allocation of funds later in the year. In addition, some of the allocations about cover full year costs on the basis that it would be simpler from an administration and delivery point of view.

3.8 The total expenditures map against the shift to early intervention as follows:

Prevention	£130,020	24.5%
Early Intervention	£100,000	18.8%
Response	£301,260	56.7%

3.10 The instruction from Council was to report to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee with options for how the Council could use the £1million to address poverty in the city, with the Committee required to make recommendations to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval. The Finance and Resources Committee next meets on 8th August 2024, and given the need to ensure the funding is made available quickly, it is proposed that the recommendations from the Committee are considered at Council on 3rd July 2024.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals within this report are within the £1million financial allocation approved by Council at the meeting on 6th March 2024, leaving a balance of £468,720 to be allocated. This is a one-off fund that has no recurring commitment.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Funds allocated to third parties will be subject to ACC's standard terms and conditions.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no 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	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 with energy costs.	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
Operational	The project delivery in this report requires some	Strong partnership working with organisations identified will ensure this risk is minimised.	L	Yes

	resource from the Council, but mainly through partners			
Financial	There is a risk of failing to deliver and spend the approved budget	The proposals present options for delivering spending the budget, with a second allocation later in the year	L	Yes
Reputational	There is a risk that failing to support people struggling to meet the cost of living could lead to reputational damage.	The delivery described in this report demonstrates a clear commitment to supporting people with the cost of living	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No environmental risks identified	N/a	n/a	n/a

8. OUTCOMES

<u>Council Delivery Plan 2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting People with the Cost of Living • Actively support Aberdeen's foodbanks and provide assistance with bulk purchasing where desirable.
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 1 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.

Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Stretch outcome 12. Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required.
Other	n/a

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [Prevention and Early Intervention CUS/23/064](#)

11. APPENDICES

11.1 n/a

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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