

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	3 July 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Working in Partnership for Aberdeen - Supporting people with the cost of living
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/24/205
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager
REPORT AUTHOR	Paul Tytler, Locality Inclusion Manager
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Introduction 6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks Council approval for the allocation of funds by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee to mitigate the ongoing cost of living crisis.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

- 2.1 Approves the allocation of funds agreed by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 12 June 2024; and
- 2.2 Agrees that the remaining funding balance be allocated by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee without the need for further approval from the Finance and Resources Committee or Council.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 At the meeting on 6 March 2024, the Council resolved to acknowledge the provision of £1 million 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 £1 million to address poverty in the city, with the Committee required to make recommendations to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval.
- 3.2 Following the decision at the Council meeting on 6 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.
- 3.3 Working in Partnership for Aberdeen - Supporting people with the cost of living CORS/24/152 was considered by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 12 June 2024.

3.4 The Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee approved the following allocations.

Note that staff costs are included for information.

Priority	Lead	Action	Impact	£ allocation	Additional-Staff Costs to support Action
Food	Cfine	Food procurement SAFE mobile/pantry outreach Infant formula (cash first) 500 pantry memberships/weekly shops	Response Prevention Prevention Early Intervention	£251,260 (6 months)	£33,010 (13% of total allocation) <u>Breakdown:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFE Mobile Outreach Worker (1FTE) £13,350 • Driver/Warehouse (0.5 FTE) £6,390 • Development Worker (0.5 FTE) £6,880 • Project Administration (0.5 FTE) £6,390
Fuel	SCARF	Fuel vouchers Energy advice	Response Prevention	£50,000	£5,000 (10% of total allocation) <u>Breakdown:</u> Administration time for processing vouchers, data input, reporting etc.
Housing	ACC Revs and Bens	Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) – claimants in private sector, limited by LHA allowances, to support rent costs	Early Intervention	£100,000	
School costs	ACC Revs and Bens	Contribution to a £10 top-up of school clothing grant (£6 from SG) approx. 5000 children	Prevention	£20,000	
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	
Health	H&SCP	Power of Attorney (PoA) - Lack of PoA results in delayed discharge, 80% of cases from SIMD 1. PoA – awareness – would be keen to link with Shmu re messaging / support for legal aid / payment if required for low income	Prevention	£10,000 40 people in SIMD 1 X £250 cost of PoA	

Priority	Lead	Action	Impact	£ allocation	Additional-Staff Costs to support Action
		individuals in targeted areas based upon data provided			
Childcare costs	ABZ Works	Supporting families in to employment	Prevention	£60,000	
Poverty	SHMU	<p>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 sense of the issues and barriers experienced by people and communities within an Aberdeen context.</p> <p>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 challenge poverty campaign Increased uptake of relevant services . Stigma around poverty continues to be challenged.</p>	Prevention	£20,000	<p>£19,500 (97.5% of total allocation)</p> <p><u>Breakdown:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional capacity within TV/Film and FM/podcasting team £7,500 • Additional capacity with our community engagement and campaigns/comms team £8,500 • Management and supervision costs £3,500
Total				£531,280	

3.5 Noting that the allocations would require the approval of the Finance and Resources Committee which is not due to meet until the 8 August 2024, the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee instructed the Executive Director of Corporate Services to submit the recommendations for allocation of funds for approval to the Council meeting on 3 July 2024 in order to expedite distribution.

3.6 Further proposals for the balance of funding to reflect seasonal priorities for winter will be considered by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 28 August. It is recommended that the Committee approves those decisions to enable the funds to be distributed quickly following that meeting without further remit to either Finance and Resources Committee or Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals within this report are within the £1 million financial allocation approved by Council at the meeting on 6 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 Aberdeen City Council'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	Delivery of recommendations to help mitigate the cost	L	Yes

	decision to spend the allocated £1m to help the most vulnerable in our community with energy costs.	of living impacts for the most vulnerable, alongside work and support across services, partners and third sector.		
Operational	The project delivery in this report requires some resource from the Council, but mainly through partners	Strong partnership working with organisations identified will ensure this risk is minimised.	L	Yes
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	Previous Integrated Impact Assessment relating to Supporting people with the cost of living, for the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 12 th June 2024 has been reviewed and no changes required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	n/a

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Supporting people with the cost of living CORS/24/152

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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