



Rochford District  
Council

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Cost of Living update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Eugene Minogue – Interim Director of Communities and Health</b>

## INFORMATION REPORT

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Members on the work undertaken by officers to respond to the Cost-of-Living crisis and ensure that we are supporting our residents, businesses and staff. The Council's function is to facilitate, co-ordinate and signpost individuals and organisations to where support is provided. It is important that this is communicated to as wide an audience as possible so that people can access the right help and support as soon as possible. This was last presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2023.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Rochford District Council has focussed on 6 key themes to support residents, staff and businesses in the response to the Cost-of-Living crisis by utilising a number of communication methods. The 6 key themes are:

- Support with bills and money
- Support with food and essentials
- Support with wellbeing
- Support to go green
- Support for businesses
- Support with work

- 1.2 The Council’s website ([www.rochford.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.rochford.gov.uk/cost-of-living)) provides a huge amount of information on each of the themes that can support residents, businesses and staff. The website is updated fortnightly so that information is up to date with the current advice and support that is available. There is a link from this webpage to the warm hubs that are available throughout the Borough, with their location, hours of operation and the activities that are available there.
- 1.3 Due to the success of the first Cost-Of-Living Roadshow a further event took place in September 2023 at Mill Hall.
- 1.4 The Executive Group agreed additional funding of £7,000 to the MegaCentre to facilitate two further Cost-of-Living Roadshows to take place in early 2024. The first took place at Great Wakering Community Centre on Thursday 25 January and the date and location for other Cost of Living Event is to be confirmed.
- 1.5 The development of the action plan enabled a whole system approach around individual and collective support that is available through a suite of preventative and personalised measures. The action plan is a live document and is informed from a number of sources such as health colleagues, Housing, Revenue and Benefits, Department of Works and Pensions, Citizen’s Advice and Voluntary and Community organisations that are on the front-line providing services to residents.

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 N/A

## **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The website is regularly updated to ensure that any changes in government legislation is added and that the front line support services are still in place.

## **4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Engagement and consultation has been undertaken with the partners of the collaborative working group.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All costs are within existing budgets and the additional £7,000 from Rochford District Council is being allocated towards the delivery of two Cost-of-Living Roadshows.

## **6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Any work undertaken by the Council, either itself or in partnership will be in line with statutory legal guidance.

## **7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful

b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

7.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

7.3 The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic and provides support and guidance for residents, businesses and staff.

## **8.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no direct environmental and climate implications beyond those noted within the content of the report.

## **9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct economic implications beyond those noted within the content of the report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:**           **Name: Kim Anderson**  
**Title: Corporate Manager, Community , Leisure and Health**  
**Phone: 01277 312500**  
**Email:**

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
------------------------	-------------

Cost of Living update: Overview and Scrutiny	5 July 2023
Cost of Living update: The Executive	12 April 2023
Cost of Living update: The Executive	7 February 2023
Cost of Living update: The Executive	19 January 2023
Cost of Living update: The Executive	6 December 2022
Cost of Living update: The Executive	9 November 2022
Cost of Living update: The Executive	11 October 2022