

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 12 April 2023**PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITIES & HEALTH****REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES & HEALTH****SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING UPDATE****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That the update on the cost of living response and work of the Cost of Living Working Group be noted.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To allow Members oversight of the work being undertaken by officers in order to respond to the crisis and ensure we are supporting our residents, businesses and staff.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Council continues its focus on its response to the cost of living crisis to support our residents, businesses and staff.
- 3.2 As reported previously, officers have been working with our partners to develop a dashboard to show the impact of the cost of living crisis and the support, advice and guidance being provided locally.
- 3.3 An initial draft dashboard was presented to Members of the Executive on 7 February. It was agreed that future dashboards would be presented to the Executive bi monthly instead of monthly to allow for data collation.
- 3.4 As officers obtain more data over the coming months it will assist in identifying any trends, emerging support needs for our residents, businesses and staff, any funding gaps and resource issues that need addressing for our partner agencies who are already seeing pressures on their services.
- 3.5 Members need to be mindful that the information for the dashboard will be collected monthly from our partners on the 21st of each month. Therefore, subject to the date of each meeting of the Executive, available data may vary.
- 3.6 A health and wellbeing and cost of living event is to be held by all partners of the Castel Point & Rochford Health & Wellbeing Board. This event is open to all residents across the district. The event takes forward the #byyourside approach with a range of information and support offered on the day, including free play for children, a market place where partners can engage directly with residents on the support they offer, debt advice and mental health private sessions, cost of living giveaways and much more. The event is at the Megacentre on 29 March from 2.00 pm.

- 3.7 Officers are taking a proactive approach to future cost of living planning by actively engaging in regional and national cost of living conversations. This information will enable future plans for a coordinated approach to cost of living with key partners based on good practice and emerging national data and trends alongside our local insights which are being gathered.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The risk implications are set out in the action plan.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Consideration will need to be given for any additional financial support that is provided. Any central Government grants may need to be applied for and will need to be allocated accordingly.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed as no decision is being made.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

Lead Officer Signature: _____



Tracey Lilley (Director Communities & Health)

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Tracey Lilley, Director of Communities & Health on:-

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