
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 9 NOVEMBER 2022**PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITIES & HEALTH****REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES & HEALTH****SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING UPDATE****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 For Members to review and note the current version of the joint Cost of Living Action Plan for Rochford and Brentwood, as agreed by the Executive on 27 September 2022.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

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

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.1 As the country prepares for the impact of the cost of living crisis the Council is focused on its response to support residents, businesses and staff. The Council has developed its response around 5 key themes: 1) Support with Bills & Money, 2) Support with Food, 3) Support with Wellbeing, 4) Going Green, and 5) Support with Work.
- 3.2 The Council has developed an action plan which provides a whole system approach to support residents, businesses and staff respond to the cost of living issues and enable individual and collective support through a suite of preventative and personalised measures.
- 3.3 This action plan is a live document and will be informed not only from any governmental changes but also a number of sources such as health partners, Housing, Revenues and Benefits, DWP, CAB and VCSE organisations that are on the front line providing services to residents.
- 3.4 The Council recognises that although a number of services were digitised as a result of the pandemic, it needs to make sure that the most vulnerable know how to access the support services that are available to them, which may include printed support materials or face to face engagement.
- 3.5 A collaborative working group has been established. The first meeting is taking place on 27 October 2022 and includes officers from both Rochford and Brentwood, as well as other key partners such as Essex County Fire and Rescue, Brentwood and Basildon Alliance, Rochford and Castle Point Alliance, Essex Police, CAB and other voluntary sector partners. This working group will help to understand and draw together the support that is currently available across the district. It will also identify any opportunities for

collaboration and additional resources required in order to provide targeted support for residents and businesses.

- 3.6 In addition, the working group will seek to develop a dashboard containing key data that can be presented to future meetings of the Executive to show the impact of the cost of living pressures and the support, advice and guidance being provided locally.

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 to any additional financial support that is required to deliver the action plan. The Council will monitor any central government grants that are available and will allocate these appropriately..

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: _____



Director of Communities & Health

Background Papers:-

None.

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

Phone: 01277 312644

Email: Tracey.lilley@brentwood.brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

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