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Cost of Living- update report

Date: 15th March 2023

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing and the Environment

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?

⊠ Yes □ No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Brief Summary

This report provides Executive Board with an updated position on the cost-of-living crisis, national policy interventions and the Leeds City Council's response to addressing the crisis.

The Leeds cost-of-living dashboard detailing key data and analysis is attached at appendix 1 and summary table of actions taken in Leeds by the Council and partners to help address the cost-of-living crisis is attached as appendix 2. Appendix 3 includes the Cost-of-Living State of the City report produced following the Conference held in December 2022.

This update follows the report to Executive Board in October 2022 and sets out any new developments, their potential impact, and any additional response required.

It is recognised that current local action alone may not be enough to mitigate the impact, and that in the longer-term greater focus will be required across all three pillars of the Best City Ambition in sustainably addressing deep rooted poverty and inequality within the city.

Recommendations

Members of Executive Board are recommended to;

- a) Note the content of this report and endorse the approach being adopted.
- b) Note that the Director, Communities, Housing and Environment will be responsible for overseeing and implementing any actions arising from this report.

What is this report about?

1 This report provides an update on the cost-of-living crisis and the actions being undertaken by the Council and partners from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective. The report follows on from the report received by Executive Board in October 2022.

Context

- 2 As reported in October, poverty and financial exclusion have been deep-rooted challenges for many years, these were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the current economic climate continues to add financial pressures and widen inequalities to households across Leeds. For many the current cost-of-living crisis is not a short-term crisis but an ongoing reality.
- 3 Attached as appendix one to this report is the Cost-of-Living Dashboard for Leeds which brings together detailed data and analysis as of February 2023. Key information is presented below.
- 4 Inflation reached a 41 year high of 11.1% in October 2022, before easing to 10.1% in January 2023¹. Over the past year, food and energy prices have been the key driver of inflation increases. The Bank of England has been raising interest rates to try and lower the inflation rate below its 2% target, leading to higher borrowing costs for households, particularly on mortgage interest rates. The Bank of England Monetary Policy report is forecasting inflation to begin falling from middle of 2023, returning to 2% in the medium term of 2024.
- 5 According to the ONS's latest Family Spending report (July 2022)², low-income households spent a larger proportion than average on energy and food and are therefore more affected by price increases particularly in terms of increasing housing rents.
- 6 Further evidence suggests that certain population groups are also more deeply impacted. According to research by the Runnymede Trust (2022) ³ ethnic minority households are heavily over-represented amongst the lowest-income groups experiencing much higher levels of food insecurity, material deprivation and fuel poverty. Whilst the Resolution Foundation has found that people with disabilities are also more vulnerable in the current situation due to rising costs of essentials like energy and food, which on average make up a greater share of budgets, than for the non-disabled. (Resolution Foundation: Costly differences 2023⁴)
- 7 Data from the national Citizens Advice Cost of Living dashboard⁵ revealed that by the end of December 2022,
 - a) The charity had helped over 200,000 people nationally with crisis support (food bank referrals and emergency charitable support etc).
 - b) Over 236,000 people were supported on energy issues (more than double than in 2020).
 - c) 27,521 people who were unable to top up their prepayment meter were assisted an increase of 230% on 2021, and more people than in the last 10 years combined.
- This is also being reflected locally with Citizens Advice Leeds and Chapeltown Citizens Advice data showing how enquiries relating to utilities such as energy bills have increased by 127% and charitable and foodbank support has increased by 71% from April to December 2021 to the same period in 2022.

¹ Consumer price inflation time series - Office for National Statistics

²https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/bulletins/familyspendingintheuk/april2020tomarch2021

³ The Runnymede Trust | Ethnic minority households will be among the hardest hit by the cost of living crisis

⁴ https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/costly-

differences/#:~:text=Recommendations, disabilities%20in%20the%20short%20term

⁵ Our new cost-of-living dashboard: the crisis we're seeing unfold | by Morgan Wild | We are Citizens Advice

- 9 The Council's Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) is currently seeing unprecedented demand for emergency support for food, energy and household goods. There were 7,906 calls to the service during January 2023, up 72% from 4,605 calls in December 2022.
- 10 Currently, the majority of LWSS applicants have never previously applied to the scheme and the most common reason for applying is due to the rising cost of living and the applicant's income no longer meeting their outgoings. Most applications are for emergency food or fuel which have increased by 52% from 1,342 applications in December 2022 to 2,037 in January 2023.
- 11 Leeds Housing Options has reported during 2022, over 5,500 homelessness applications were completed that resulted in owing a household a duty to resolve their housing situation, representing a 2.5% increase for requests for homeless assistance per year since 2019. It is anticipated this upward trend will continue due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, the renters reform bill abolishing Section 21 notices, and continued pressure following the ending of the Covid-19 legislation that prevented landlords issuing possession proceedings against tenants. The three main reasons people currently approach Leeds Housing Options for assistance are those being asked to leave by friends or family, are victims of domestic abuse, or their private rented tenancy is ending.
- 12 Leeds accepted 66% of assessments at the prevention stage in 2022 which is above the national average in 2021-22 of 46%. It is seen as a positive indicator to accept more prevention duties (when a household is threatened with homelessness), than relief duties (where a household is already homeless) as early intervention is critical in preventing homelessness.). In 2022, Leeds achieved successful accommodation outcomes for over 70% of cases owed the prevention duty, compared to the national rate in 2021/22 of 54%. Where a positive prevention outcome (securing existing or alternative accommodation for at least 6 months to prevent homelessness) cannot be achieved, or customers approach at a point of crisis, the council may be under a duty to provide temporary accommodation. At the end of Q3 of 2022, 166 households were in temporary accommodation 55 were families and 111 were single people. In comparison with Q3 of 2021, family placements have increased from 8, and single placements have increased from 59 highlighting the increased demand for assistance.
- 13 Significant capital investment has been put into improving the heating and energy efficiency of the councils housing stock over recent years with plans to improve this in the future. These programmes have included the replacement of old inefficient heating systems and insulation/ventilation upgrades. Since 2017, £56.6m has been invested in this type of improvement with a further £100m projected over the next 5 years. Despite these improvements, feedback from tenants is that some people simply cannot afford to use the new heating systems, as the savings that they would have benefitted from through improved efficiency have been lost in the sharp increases in the cost of living and raised energy costs. Data shows that up to 15% of residents are not using the heating and hot water provided through their connections to communal heating systems. Work is ongoing to fully understand the reasons behind this however, the service has found examples of tenants reverting to the use of portable electric heaters as a perceived cheaper alternative to them using their heating system as designed. Overall, Housing Leeds has highlighted increasing numbers of tenants reporting financial difficulty. Housing Officer Incomes (HOI) have also highlighted rises in referrals/enquiries for food parcels as well as in relation to pensioner benefit enquiries, with some instances of pensioners advising of a need to return to the job market due to financial pressures, following retirement.
- 14 The rising cost of living is also having a significant impact on the volume of damp and mould reports being made by council housing tenants. Reported volumes have doubled since November 2022 and whilst this has largely been attributed to intense media attention around the topic of damp and mould which has raised awareness of the associated health hazards, there has been a significant rise in mould growth cases due to condensation where tenants say that they simply cannot afford to heat their homes in-line with best practice guidance. As a result of this, the risk

of damp and mould occurring in many homes has significantly increased meaning that the health risks also increase, and the council are spending more through the Housing Revenue Account to treat the cases which is a sector wide trend.

- 15 Local analysis on the latest earnings data, published in November 2022 for April 2022 highlights how people on the lowest income are being hit the hardest by the cost-of-living, with 6% of their weekly earnings being lost to inflationary impacts, this compares to a loss of 2% for those on median and 1% for the top 10% incomes.
- 16 In real terms this means that although earnings for full-time equivalent residents on the lowest incomes had increased by £5 a week on the previous year to £189 per week, once inflationary impacts are considered wages fell by £12 per week. This compares to a reduction of £10 per week for those on median incomes (£536.60 per week) and £14.50 for those on top 10% of earners (£1,060 per week)

Other key local statistics;

- 22% (174,000) of the Leeds population is living in relative poverty after housing costs are deducted from income.
- 24% of children, (36,496) were estimated to be living in relative low-income families before housing costs in 2019/20.
- There were 73,429 Universal Credit claimants in Leeds in December 2022, the number of claimants has been increasing steadily since January 2022.

National update

17 The Autumn statement 2022 took place following significant changes in government. The 'minibudget' on 23 September 2022 included announcements on tax cuts and the Energy Price Guarantee. However, most of the measures on tax cuts were reversed and there was a reduction in the Energy Price Guarantee offer. A new Cost of Living Support Package for 2023 was also announced.

Support in 2022

- 18 The Government's Cost of Living Support Package in 2022 included support for households in receipt of means tested benefits with a one-off payment of up to £650, made in two instalments during summer and autumn 2022, support to help disabled people through a one-off Disability Cost of Living payment of £150 and support with the Pensioner Cost of Living Payment with £300 to all pensioners eligible for Winter Fuel Payments. (2023/24 package of Cost-of-Living Payments detailed below).
- 19 From October 2022, all UK households have been scheduled to receive a total of £400 under the Energy Bill Support Scheme, paid in 6 instalments. Direct debit energy customers receive a monthly discount automatically applied to their bills, while those on prepayment meters receive monthly vouchers to the equivalent value.
- 20 Vouchers for prepayment customers expire three months after they are issued (October vouchers were invalid from 3rd January 2023, and November's will expire on 5th February 2023). In total, 1.3m vouchers, worth £84m have not been claimed since the start of the scheme. Numerous barriers including, incorrect customer details and difficulty redeeming the vouchers have been cited, as well as overall confusion about the scheme and difficulty contacting suppliers for support.
- 21 In December 2022, the Government confirmed households without domestic energy supply (ineligible for the standard EBSS) would be able to apply for a one-off payment of £400 via the 'Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS AF). Residents in off-grid homes, park homes, care homes, caravans, houseboats and some private and social rented homes are expected to be eligible although final guidance is yet to be published. Those eligible will need to apply via a GOV.UK online portal. The application process was originally scheduled to open in January 2023; however, this has now been delayed until 27th February 2023.

Cost of Living Support Package 2023

- 22 The Cost-of-Living package for 2023 was announced in the Autumn statement. Central to this was the Cost-of-Living payments for over 8 million eligible means-tested benefits claimants. Payment of £900 will start in Spring and will be paid into bank accounts in three payments over the course of the financial year. There will also be a separate £150 for over six million disabled people and £300 for over eight million pensioners in receipt of Winter Fuel Payments. In some cases, households will receive a combination of these payment, depending on circumstances.
- 23 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced the following timetable for the New Cost of Living Payments as set out below:
 - £301 First Cost of Living Payment during Spring 2023
 - £150 Disability Payment during Summer 2023
 - £300 Second Cost of Living Payment during Autumn 2023
 - £300 Pensioner Payment during Winter 2023/4
 - £299 Third Cost of Living Payment during Spring 2024
- 24 Joseph Rowntree Foundation⁶ has stated in January 2023 that whilst the government has announced a further £900 cost-of-living support payment for people on means-tested benefits, it is estimated that 4 in 10 households in the poorest fifth of the population do not receive these benefits, leaving them without additional support.
- 25 In addition, these payments remain at a flat rate, which does not take into account the differing needs and costs of different household types i.e., households with children.
- 26 The Energy Price Guarantee, which limits the amount energy suppliers can charge per unit of energy used is set to end in March 2023. Under the current energy price guarantee, an average household using a typical amount of gas and electricity would pay £2,500 annually. The guarantee was announced in October 2022, and set for two years, however this was then revised and from April 2023 the energy price guarantee was increased by £500 to £3,000 (based on average households using a typical amount of gas and electric). Energy bills will still be higher or lower depending on how much energy is used.
- 27 Wholesale energy prices have fallen from their summer 2022 peaks but there is a substantial lag before these reach consumers. The latest price cap forecasts show it falling to well below the £3,000 EPG level. This would result in cuts in household bills as prices are capped by whichever is lower, the EPR or the price cap rate⁷.
- 28 Research for the Runnymede Trust⁸ suggests the 'Energy Price Guarantee' will lift more white households out of fuel poverty than ethnic minority households; 'Just under a third (32%) of White people are likely to experience fuel poverty this winter compared to more than half (52%) people from ethnic minority backgrounds (rising to two thirds (66%) of Pakistani and Bangladeshi people).'
- 29 Concerns were also raised nationally and locally regarding energy suppliers using court warrants, to force people onto prepayment meters. In 2022, an estimated 600,000 people were affected, compared with 380,000 in 2021. Following national and local campaigning, Ofgem launched an urgent inquiry into the practice and the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales has instructed magistrates courts to stop listing applications for warrants.

Universal Credit (Autumn statement announcements)

⁶ https://www.jrf.org.uk/repor<u>t/low-income-not-claiming-means-tested-benefits</u>

⁷ https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9714/

⁸ The Runnymede Trust | Falling Faster amidst a Cost-of-Living Crisis: Poverty, Inequality and Ethnicity in the UK

- 30 Benefits (including the benefit cap level) are to be increased in April 2023 in line with inflation, measured by the September CPI rate of 10.1%.
- 31 Effective from September 2023, changes to In-Work Conditionality will see in work UC claimants, (typically those with weekly earnings equivalent to 15-35 hours at NLW) required to meet with a work coach to provide support to increase their hours or earnings.
- 32 Effective from Spring 2023, mortgage borrowers on UC will be able to apply for a loan to help with interest repayments after three months, instead of nine. The government will also abolish the zero earnings rule to allow claimants to continue receiving support while in work and on UC.

Other key announcements from the Autumn statement include:

- 33 Raising the National Living Wage From 1 April 2023, the government will increase the National Living Wage (NLW) by 9.7% to £10.42 an hour, for those aged 23 and over. This represents an increase of over £1,600 to the annual earnings of a full-time worker on the NLW and is expected to benefit over 2 million low paid workers.
- 34 National insurance and Income tax thresholds Thresholds for NI, personal allowance, and higher rate (40%) will remain frozen until April 2028.
- 35 Social Housing Rent Social housing rents were set to rise by up to 11.1%, but this has instead been capped to a maximum of 7% in 2023/24. (Estimated yearly savings of £200 for the average tenant in the social housing).
- 36 Local housing allowance (LHA) rates For 2023-24, LHA rates will remain frozen at the 30th percentile, originally set in September 2019. This represents a reduction in support relative to actual rent costs.

Local update

- 37 Leeds City Council and partners have been recognised for the work undertaken to reduce poverty and inequality for many years and have employed an effective collaborative and co-ordinated approach. This was further highlighted in the <u>LGA Peer Review</u> in November 2022, which recognised the strength of partnership and shared ambitions within the city.
- 38 This collaborative partnership approach has been the basis for the response to the cost-of-living crisis. As reported at October Executive Board and linked to the breakthrough priority to develop an integrated city-wide welfare support approach, strategic and operational groups have been meeting since September to coordinate actions to mitigate as far as possible the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. The groups all have representatives from the Council, health, third sector and the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 39 Whilst the strategic and operational groups have helped frame the response in the city, without the dedication and commitment of front-line staff and services, nothing would have been achieved. All front-line staff, from the Third Sector, Statutory partners and the Council, have all gone above and beyond their 'normal' day job to help vulnerable people in the city and should be commended on their role and the positive impact they have made in the city, especially as many of these staff will also be impacted by the issues associated with the cost-of-living crisis.
- 40 Regarding framing the response in the city, the work areas and actions emerging from the meetings have focussed on ensuring that there is awareness and understanding of the support available, developing practical support which enhances existing services, and ensuring the short-term funding available is coordinated and maximised. To achieve this the work has been organised into the following areas;
 - · Communications and engagement
 - Information, Advice and Guidance
 - Practical Support
 - Funding

- Reporting
- 41 Full details of the range of work being undertaken since October are detailed in appendix 2 of this report. A summary of the activity is as follows.

Communications and Engagement

- 42 The action undertaken within this area has focussed on ensuring that anyone affected by the cost-of-living crisis is aware of where they can access the support they need, and in addition promote the positive work of the council, partners and local communities. A wide range of activity has been undertaken both through online and offline platforms, this has included creating the Together Leeds webpage as a one stop shop for all cost-of-living information and advice, with dedicated social media content plan being employed. This has been complemented by radio advertising, outdoor adverts, posters and leaflets which signpost to both the website and the Council's Community Hubs and Libraries.
- 43 A range of events with a cost-of-living focus have also taken place since October, this includes the first 'Anchor Financial Wellbeing week' in which employees of the city's Inclusive Anchor institutions were able to attend sessions covering a wide range of cost-of-living focussed topics. In addition, there has been a growing number of local community-based events signposting and informing people about the local services available and offering hints and tips, a calendar of these events is now available on the Together Leeds webpage.
- 44 The annual **State of the City** conference was held in December focussing on the cost-of-living crisis, a full and detailed report can be found in appendix 3 of this report. The event report includes a range of implications and opportunities for action, focused on the city overall, anchor organisations, third sector and private sector. Anchor organisations through their Executive Group will consider their joint response to what is highlighted. On those issues relevant to the council and its partners, most actions arising will be integrated into the work being undertaken through the strategic and operational cost-of-living groups as reflected in appendix 2. Some of the issues highlighted focus more on the continuing development of city partnerships and infrastructure. These will be reflected in the upcoming refresh of the Best City Ambition (and its ongoing implementation), and the reviews of the Inclusive Growth and Health and Wellbeing strategies this Spring. Furthermore, and to clearly articulate the City's concerns a letter from the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Communities, co-sign by organisations across the city, was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in January. It detailed the pressures being faced by the people of Leeds and its organisations, the funding required and specific areas of action.
- 45 Alongside activity to support our citizens and communities, there continues collaborative work to address the impact on organisations within the city. As detailed above in para 44, the Inclusive Anchor Network will be considering their response to the actions contained within the State of the City Report (Appendix 3), and alongside this, collective work is ongoing to support the city's 3rd Sector to maintain its resilience, with specific work on restating shared principles and the development of a Third Sector Strategy. Recognising that all organisations are facing similar inflationary pressures place an even greater emphasis on all partners in the city to work collectively to maximise opportunities to deliver outcomes in collaboration and sustain the valuable services that are delivered by #TeamLeeds.

Information, Advice, and Guidance

46 Ensuring that frontline services are well informed about the free, impartial, and independent information and support available with the city, how and when to access this has been the focus of this workstream. Improvements have been made to the <u>Leeds Money Information Centre</u> website making it easier to navigate and re-introducing a mapping tool so that services can be easily located. In addition, the Leeds Money Information Centre map now integrates other maps such as the food aid map, where to access digital services, Leeds School Uniform Exchange,

Winter Coats and Warm Spaces. Physical resources such as flyers, business cards and concertinas have been widely distributed to services and buildings across the city, including health services, community hubs and libraries, faith institutions and warm spaces.

- 47 To address the fact that information can change regularly, a relatively simple development has been the creation of google drive which can be shared across organisations containing up to date messaging, resources and training themed around money, energy, housing, food and health, with details on how the resources can be ordered.
- 48 Leeds City Councils Financial Inclusion team in collaboration with advice services and the Welfare Rights service have been delivering training and awareness sessions to a wide range of boards, services and groups across the Council, health and with wider city partnerships, (estimated to have been rolled out to approximately 2000 people). A suite of short, themed awareness videos branded with the Together Leeds logo are also being created to cascade across services and team meetings, which allows key messages to spread further.

Practical support

- 49 This area of work has focussed on practically ensuring that people are able to keep warm throughout the winter and can access short term crisis support when needed. This has included new projects such as establishing over **180 warm spaces** across the city offering a space where people can gather for free in a safe and welcoming environment. All Council Community Hubs and Libraries are part of the warm spaces network, alongside many third sector and faith-based organisations, who are being supported by Voluntary Action Leeds and Forum Central.
- 50 In addition, the Council has provided funding to Zero Waste Leeds to run a **winter coat appeal**, to collect good quality and clean coats and redistribute across community locations in the city. The initial campaign between October and December collected over 3500 coats and has now been extended until March 2023.
- 51 Work is also underway between the Council, the city's health organisations and the Green Doctor service to pilot a **heating on prescription** approach to help support clinically vulnerable patients who have conditions which are likely to be exacerbated by living in a cold environment. All patients referred will have access to an enhanced fuel support offer as well as wrap around support on energy advice, use, savings, and well-being. The pilot will run until the end of March and will be evaluated before next steps are considered.
- 52 A small project is also being trialled with the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to provide **winter wellbeing packs** to vulnerable households as part of the fire safety checks. This will link to a referral to further support to city-based services for fuel and energy advice.
- 53 An area of concern raised by the City's advice agencies was for people who had debts of up to £30,000 but were unable to pay the £90 fee for a **Debt Relief Order**, which would give 12 months breathing space on payments to creditors so that clients could seek to improve their financial position. The Council has funded Ebor Gardens Advice Centre to administer the scheme on behalf of all the city's advice agencies over the next 12 months.
- 54 In addition to these new initiatives, work has continued to review **the Local Welfare Support Scheme** for Leeds, to ensure that people in crisis are able to access short term support for food, fuel, and household items. Revised eligibility criteria in line with the cost-of-living has been introduced, along with an enhanced fuel support offer.

Funding

55 Against the backdrop of public sector funding cuts to local authority and health budgets, reductions in funding and donations to the third sector and increased costs across the board, the aim has been to ensure where funding is available that this is coordinated and enhances services and organisations so that they can directly support people. Efforts have focussed on ensuring short term funding such as the Household Support Fund and the West Yorkshire Mayoral fund

are prioritised to support people most impacted by the cost-of-living crisis (including via VCSE partners in the city), whilst adhering to the criteria of the different funds.

What impact will this proposal have?

56 The proposal sets out how the Council and partners are adopting a strategic, coordinated and collaborative response to the cost-of-living crisis. However, many of the projects and initiatives referenced are short term. The challenge for the council and partners is how this work can be used to make a substantial long-term difference to the people of Leeds, without significant change in national policy and adequate long term sustainable funding.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

- 57 The Leeds Best City Ambition has at its heart the mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home. The actions and initiatives set out within the report to mitigate the impacts as far as possible of the cost-of-living crisis, impact all three pillars of the Best City Ambition. A greater focus will be required across all three pillars of the Best City Ambition in sustainably addressing deep rooted poverty and inequality within the city.
- 58 Poverty and inequality are protected characteristics, and Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening are undertaken as appropriate for each measure.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:		
Have ward members been consulted?	□ Yes	⊠ No

59 Partner organisations referred to in this report have been consulted to provide relevant and up to date information about the projects, initiatives and services referenced

What are the resource implications?

60 All the projects and services referred to in this report are being undertaken within current budgets, there are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 61 The Corporate Risk Register houses the most significant and cross cutting risks facing the council and city. The register includes a risk on Escalating Poverty "The impact of poverty in the city escalates due to factors such as inflation, fuel, food and energy prices increases". Should the council fail to play an effective part in tackling the risk, then the impact of the risk increases, and it will have a more detrimental effect on the citizens and communities of Leeds. This could lead to a loss of public faith in the council and subsequent reputational damage.
- 62 The risk is managed through a range of activities as outlined in this report, including regular strategic and operational group meetings. The risk is regularly reviewed, updated and reported within the council, to the Communities, Housing and Environment Directorate Leadership Team and onto the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 63 An additional risk is being considered for the Corporate Risk Register the risk that Third Sector Organisations will not be able to deliver due to reduced funding and increased demand. The key control to manage this risk will be the development of a strategy based on the following principles:
 - Working in a way that ultimately benefits people and communities living in Leeds
 - The importance of delivering preventative measures where possible
 - Investment in resilience
 - The importance of working together in partnership

- A commitment to 'one workforce'
- The third sector being an equal partner as part of both the WY Health and Care Partnership,
 'Team Leads' approach and West Yorkshire Combined Authority

What are the legal implications?

64 There are no specific legal implications or access to information issues with this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

65 No other options have been considered.

How will success be measured?

66 Success will be measured by update reports and the cost-of-living dashboard.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

67 Implementation is immediate and continuous

Appendices

- Appendix one: Cost of Living Dashboard February 2023
- Appendix two: Cost of Living Action Plan
- Appendix three: State of the City report

Background papers

None