

Cost Of Living Exec Board Report

Appendix 1

Table of Action (from July 22 onwards)

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| Action taken (national) | |
| Government £650 Cost of Living support – paid in 2 instalments, first in July of £326, second of £324 due later in the year | |
| Energy Price Guarantee – Unit cost of electricity and gas reduced so all customers will pay no more than £2500 per year on annual bill | |
| Energy Bills Support Scheme – households receive £400 off energy bills, effectively reducing annual bills to no more than £2100. Due to end in April 23, a risk of bills rising as again as a result. | |
| DWP CoL toolkit – accessed here: https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/communicating-help-for-households-and-cost-of-living-payments/ . | |
| LGA – Local Authority CoL toolkit: accessed here: Cost of Living Support - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) | |
| Mini Budget: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income tax A cut in the basic rate of income tax to 19% from April 2023. Currently, people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland pay 20% on any annual earning between £12,571 to £50,270. • National Insurance The recent rise in National Insurance (NI) will be reversed from 6th November. Workers and employers have paid an extra 1.25p in the pound since April. The new Health and Social Care Levy to pay for the NHS will not now be introduced. • Benefits The rules around universal credit have been tightened. Around 120,000 more people claiming UC are to be asked to take steps to seek more work, or face having their benefits reduced. Jobseekers over 50 to be given extra time with work coaches to help them return to job market | |
| Action taken (local) | Output |
| Establishment of <i>City-Wide welfare operational group</i> | Fortnightly meetings to be held with partners to ensure collaborative, strategic discussions/actions with regard to cost of living |
| Establishment of <i>'Task and Finish' workstreams</i> , reporting to city wide welfare operational group | Action focussed workstreams – areas of focus are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Information, advice and Guidance (IAG). • Practical support – e.g. food, fuel, winter warm packs. Money Information Centre concertina cards, leaflets, energy support leaflets and business cards have already been designed and will be distributed shortly. • Funding |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting – e.g. dashboard approach on demand and support |
| Production of a dedicated ' Cost of Living ' webpage which will be continuously added to as support initiatives develop. | Customer facing webpage can be found here: www.leeds.gov.uk/costofliving . |
| Warm Place network | Warm place network consisting of Community hubs and Libraries, and 3 rd sector colleagues. All warm places to be added to interactive mapping tool. From early October onwards 'warm places' will be available for support |
| Local Welfare support Scheme (LWSS) review | Work continues to progress on the LWSS review – the scheme is designed to support those in an emergency or crisis position with food/fuel/white goods/brown goods. The review will comprehensively overhaul current processes/procedures/assessments/awards – making sure there is an efficient, transparent, and effective scheme in place. |
| Household Support Fund (HSF) | Leeds City Council have been awarded £7.1 million extension to HSF from Oct – March. This funding can be spent helping low-income residents with food/fuel/water/essential items. Proposals for allocating the extension funding are currently being worked up. |
| Cost of Living – local support events | Delivered from a variety of LCC Community Hub sites from 18 th October onwards, events will focus on offering a range of support that residents can access in Leeds if they are struggling e.g. Green Doctors, Healthy Start, IAG, Bike Mill, Zero Waste Leeds, Sure Start, CAB, Welfare Rights, Employment support |