

# Cost of Living update

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Leicester  
City Council

# Current situation



As we head into autumn and winter 2023, the cost-of-living crisis continues to have serious impacts on the residents of Leicester.



The City Council has continued to deliver a range of programmes and interventions to address the rising cost of living.



There is still a requirement for coordinated activity across Divisions.



The extent of the current crisis means that support continues to be needed on a greater scale than we have previously experienced, including for those who have not previously sought support before, and who may not have experience with our access channels, or be known to our services.



As such we need to target available support, reaching the maximum number of people with our available resources while working with our partners and stakeholders across different sectors.

# What support is needed?

## Insufficient income

Low-income households are more likely to struggle with the impact of inflation. This is because their income may not keep up with the rising cost of living.

Our support is focussed on immediate assistance for those in urgent need, alongside income maximisation and pathways into longer-term sustainability.



## Financial resilience and debt

Financial resilience is the ability to cope with unexpected financial shocks, such as a sudden increase in prices. Many households in Leicester have low levels of financial resilience and are already struggling with debt.

Interventions include providing important financial advice and support to households, again looking at finding long-term solutions.



## High essential outgoings

High essential outgoings, such as housing costs and utility bills, can leave households with little room to cope with rising prices. Those with dependent children or adults are most at-risk of higher-than-average costs.

Our support provides for those in most need and aims for longer-term sustainability through initiatives such as the fuel poverty programme and investment in line with our anti-poverty strategy.



It is important to recognise that the interventions needed to address the cost-of-living crisis are varied; there is no single mitigating intervention that could address the multiple factors that contribute to whether a household can cope with insufficient income, high cost of essentials, and financial insecurity and debt.

# Established support programmes



- Our existing offer is extensive and varied across divisions
- We look at short-term support and long-term change
- There is a limit to what we can do

# Caveats to the local response



There is no new money to tackle the crisis - the council does not have resources to provide large scale additional local financial payments to people. Our aim is to maximise effectiveness of existing interventions being delivered across the council to mitigate the impact of the crisis



Just about managing group: people who may not have needed to access any of this type of support previously.



How do we know who we don't know about? We don't know who is struggling if they're not on our radar. Having an open and accessible system



Further Government support is likely to be limited



We need to be as prepared as possible for winter 2023

# IMT Membership

Finance

Planning, Development and Transportation

Delivery, Communications and Political Governance

De Montfort University

Leicester University

Housing

Public Health

SEND Early Help and Education

Adult Social Care and Commissioning/Safeguarding

Neighbourhoods and Environmental Services

Social Care and Education

Estates and Building Services

Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment

NHS

DWP

# Emergency Food Cell



Monitoring the health of foodbanks



Supporting providers



Facilitating advice within foodbanks



Working with Leicester Food Partnership

# Revenues and Welfare Advice Cell



Successful administration  
of HSF



Focus on income  
maximisation



Grants to foodbanks and  
other providers



Two waves of Anti-  
poverty grants



Monitoring advice  
provision, and debt  
position across the  
authority



# Adult Social Care and Education Cell

01

Monitoring  
Social Care  
Worker  
Welfare

02

Supporting  
SEND schools

03

Administering  
Holiday Activity  
and Food  
Programme

04

Supporting the  
most vulnerable  
in the city

# Voluntary Sector and Communities Cell



REGULAR COST OF  
LIVING DROP IN  
SESSIONS



TAKING SCHEMES  
AND PROGRAMMES  
INTO THE HEART OF  
COMMUNITIES



LISTENING TO THE  
ISSUES FACING  
COMMUNITIES



BREAKING DOWN  
BARRIERS AND  
TACKLING INEQUITIES



BRINGING FIRST-  
HAND ISSUES TO IMT

# Public Health Cell

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Advice provision

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Working to embed mental health conversations into financial advice and support conversations

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Infant Nutrition

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Advice and support programmes within Warm Spaces

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Fuel Poverty Programme

# LCC Housing



Continuing to support tenants with an emphasis on sustaining tenancies



Focus on engaging with tenants in difficulty



Linking tenants with the right advice and support

# Partners

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Not working alone

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Universities

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NHS

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CITAL, CALS

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Leicester Food Partnership

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Community Organisations

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Mental Health Board

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Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

# Warm welcome

- LCC offered warm welcome across Neighbourhood Services buildings over winter 2022/ 2023.
- Public Health supported warm welcome by funding refreshments and activities (Let's Get Resourceful and 'Taster' Sessions).
- 85% of people accessing these sessions and other COL support were 'Happy or very happy' with the support they received.

# Warm spaces offer 2023/2024

- All Leicester libraries re-signed up to the scheme and the spaces are open from September offering around 800hrs of opening time
- A programme of activities will be launched in October 2023, to include Let's Get Creative, 'taster' sessions and advice and information sessions (NEA, debt advice, mental health)
- The Warm Welcome will be promoted to people most in need (food bank users, families accessing free school meals, unemployment hubs and people in contact with housing services)