

Communities, Housing, and Planning Policy Development Panel

Agenda

Members of the Panel

Cllr S Prutton (Chairman)	Cllr E Laming
Cllr J Ward (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr K Leggett
Cllr A Crotch	Cllr M Murrell
Cllr N Brennan	Cllr J Neesam
Cllr R Foulger	Cllr D Thomas
Cllr N Harpley	

Cllr F Wymark (ex-officio)

Date & Time:

Wednesday 14 September 2022 at 6pm

Place:

Council Chamber, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0DU

Contact:

Leah Arthurton tel (01508) 533610 Email: committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
Website: www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

If a member of the public would like to observe the meeting in person or to speak on an agenda item, please email your request to committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk, no later than 5.00pm Friday 9 September 2022

Large print version can be made available

If you have any special requirements in order to attend this meeting, please let us know in advance.

AGENDA

Personal Tribute - to stand for a minutes silence in tribute to Councillor Nigel Shaw – requested by the Chairman

1. **To receive declarations of interest from members;**
(guidance and flow chart attached – page 3)
2. **To report apologies for absence and to identify substitute members;**
3. **To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Wellbeing Policy Development Panel held on 27 April 2022 and Place Shaping Policy Development Panel held on 11 July 2022**
(minutes attached – page 5
page 9)
4. **Cost of Living Response;**
(report attached page 12)

Cancelled

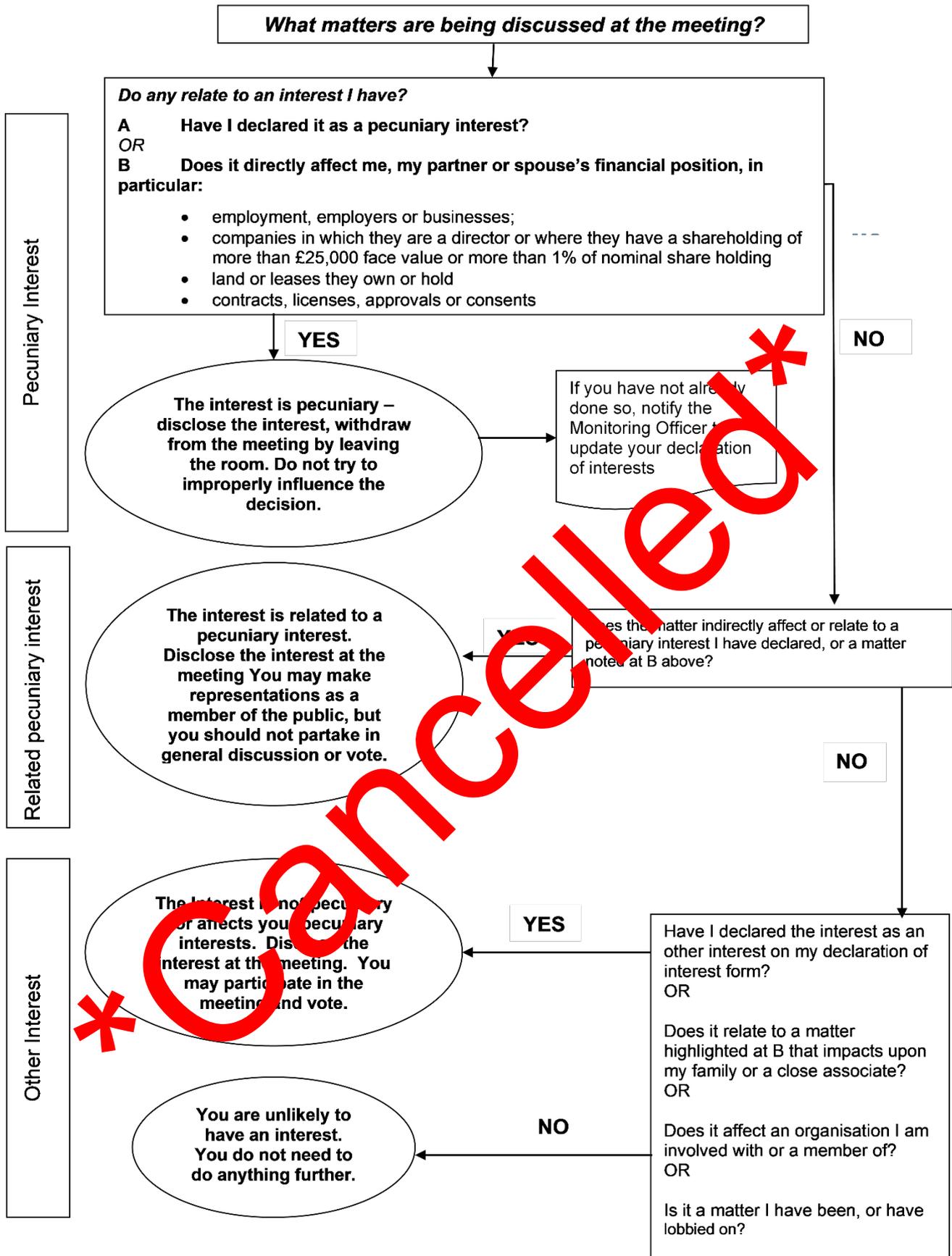
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

<p>Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.</p>
<p>Does the interest directly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position? 2. relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner? 3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council 4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own 5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in <p>If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.</p> <p>Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.</p>
<p>Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?</p> <p>If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion or vote.</p>
<p>Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be an other interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.</p>
<p>Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.</p>

**FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF.
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST
INSTANCE**

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wellbeing Policy Development Panel, Broadland District Council, held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 6pm at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: S Prutton (Chairman), A Cutch, R Foulger, E Laming, M Murrell, J Neesam and N Snow

Apologies: Councillors: R Foulger and L Starling

Substitute: Councillor: D Roper

Other Members present: Councillor F Whyte (ex officio)

Officers in Attendance: The Assistant Director of Individuals and Families (M Pursehouse), the Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager (R Dwyer), the Housing and Benefits Manager (L Sayer), the Domestic Abuse Support Specialist (G Bloodfield) and the Democratic Services Officer (J Hammond)

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8

* No declarations of interest were made.

55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Starling (with D Roper appointed substitute) and R Foulger.

56 MINUTES

The minutes of the Wellbeing Panel meeting held on 2 February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

In reference to minute number 52, the Chairman sought clarification on

whether the Council had been successful in its bid to secure funding for the Rough Sleeper Team. The Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager informed the Committee that no decision had been made to date, and assured members that he would update them once the outcome of the bid had been announced.

57 ENERGY REBATE SCHEME

The Housing and Benefits Manager presented the report which outlined the details of the £150 Energy Rebate Scheme which was to be administered by Council Tax billing authorities, and sought approval for the Discretionary Payment Scheme.

Members were reminded that on 3 February 2022 the Government announced a package of support for the rising energy costs which included a £150 non-repayable rebate to all households who permanently resided in a property in Council Tax bands A-D. A discretionary fund was also available for households who were either ineligible under the main scheme or who required additional support.

Officers explained that the Council was working with an external company to make the process easy and quick when sending out payments to residents. In terms of how the payment would be made, members were advised that customers who paid their Council Tax bill by Direct Debit would receive a payment directly into their bank account once verification checks had been made. Where bank account details were not held, the customer would be contacted by letter and advised how to apply for the payment.

Members queried whether the Council ran the risk of exceeding its budget for the discretionary fund. Officers explained that the discretionary fund would allow for up to 100% additional payments to be made and that the Council has determined local criteria which aimed to focus on households most likely to face financial hardship and/or fuel poverty. The Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager further explained that officers would also look into other funding available to provide longer-term support to residents.

In response to a query regarding second homes, the Housing and Benefits Manager confirmed that second homes and empty homes were marked on Council Tax records which had been extracted to ensure payments could not be claimed on these properties. This applied to payments for both the main and discretionary schemes.

Discussion turned to the recommendation to approve delegated powers for future discretionary schemes fully funded by Government. It was noted that the Government approach was to provide small allocations of money to deal with specific issues and that delegation of the discretionary criteria to the appropriate Assistant Director and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the

Portfolio Holder would allow for increased flexibility and mitigate the risk of delaying the distribution of future discretionary funds. In response to a query the Assistant Director of Individuals and Families clarified that the criteria for each discretionary fund would be assessed and adapted to best meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents.

The Chairman thanked officers for their report, and it was then unanimously,

RESOLVED To recommend to Cabinet

To delegate permission for future discretionary schemes to be determined by the appropriate Assistant Director and the Section 151 Officer in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder.

58 THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Support Specialist introduced the report which provided members with an overview of the Council's work in tackling domestic abuse. The Committee heard that a change had been seen in 2021 regarding the Domestic Abuse Act and saw it become law. There were two key areas of statutory responsibility for tier two local authorities.

- Under Part IV of the act tier 1 local authorities must provide support within safe accommodation, such as refuge to victims of domestic abuse. Tier 2 authorities must support and cooperate with tier 1 authorities to achieve this. And;
- All eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance

Following this, a requirement for two new trained members staff was needed to provide help and support with accommodation matters. Members noted that the new Burden of Funding would help achieve this for the Council. The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation linked with the two posts would enhance the One Team's approach to domestic abuse by strengthening procedures and policies. This would also enable the Council to provide a high quality of service to customers and staff.

One member queried whether a scheme was in place for a handy person service in situations where an abuser damages the property the victim had been rehoused in. The Domestic Abuse Support Specialist explained that the Norfolk Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (NDAPB), of which Broadland Council was a member, was working to develop a handy person scheme. He added that some discretionary funding was available from the Council on a needs-by-needs basis. Members noted that Broadland Council currently had a handy person scheme and requested that officers looked to expand the scheme in the short-term until the NDAPB's scheme was in place.

In response to a query on the aftercare the Council offered domestic abuse victims, officers confirmed that a support worker would work with individuals for six weeks. Following this, the Community Connectors would then continue to work with individuals and offer support. Support workers would provide welcome packs which would detail numbers and points of contact for individuals.

The Domestic Abuse Support Specialist outlined the support and training provided to officers, which included Domestic Abuse safeguarding training for all officers and councillors as well as additional training for officers in contact with victims, including the Housing and Help Hub Teams. He further added that the Council appointed Domestic Abuse Champions to support and advise officers. It was noted that the DAHA Accreditation would improve the support provided to officers across the Council.

In response to a query regarding out-of-hours emergency housing support, the Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager explained that out-of-hours calls were taken by NORSE who had been advised to provide overnight emergency housing without question, he added that managers were available 24/7 if further advice or support was needed.

One member noted that the individual making Domestic Violence related calls could be perpetrators themselves and queried how the Council worked to prevent this. The Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager advised the Committee that all officers who worked with vulnerable people were DBS checked, additionally the Council had a robust and thorough application process in order to appoint the right fit for each role.

The Chairman thanked officers for their report and it was

RESOLVED

To note the report and comments reflected above.

(The meeting concluded at 6:47pm)

Chairman

PLACE SHAPING POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Place Shaping Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on Monday 11 July 2022 at 6pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: J M Ward (Chairman), M Brennan, E Laming, R Potter, D Thomas, S Thomas

Other Members present: Cllr J Leggett

Officers in Attendance: The Assistant Director of Planning, the Principal Policy Planning Officer (A Panham) and the Democratic Services Officer (Dul)

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Harpley, Cllr D Harrison, Cllr S Lawn and Cllr K Leggett.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER FOCUSED CONSULTATION

The Assistant Director of Planning introduced the report which was seeking approval to undertake a public consultation on the possible allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP). The Gypsy and Traveller Focused Consultation contained three possible sites in Greater Norwich, one of which was in Broadland, for allocation and created another opportunity for landowners to put forward land for use as Gypsy and Traveller pitches only. The Assistant Director Planning reported that recently updated evidence of need had now been received. She went on to outline the requirement (as shown at page 19 of the papers) for 50 pitches as a whole for the Greater Norwich area for the period 2022/23 to 2037/38 in addition to already approved allocations yet to be constructed. Of this 50 pitches, it was anticipated that at least 18 needed to be identified through the local plan for the first 10 years from 2022/23 to 2031/32 to meet the requirements of the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS).

The Assistant Director of Planning advised that the recommendations in the report included the proposal to make the submission to the Inspectorate following

the consultation but that it was now deemed appropriate to refer the matter back to Cabinet in September after the consultation to allow for consideration of any issues or additional sites which could arise from the consultation.

The second recommendation was therefore replaced with the following proposal:

“Agree to refer the matter back to Cabinet on 27 September 2022 after consultation to agree the final submission to the Independent Inspectors.”

The Assistant Director of Planning drew members’ attention to the appendix relating to the Habitats Regulations Assessment and its references to Nutrient Neutrality issues and that these references would be updated as the Nutrient Neutrality issue progressed.

The Assistant Director of Planning then advised members that consent of all three partner authorities was required to be able to proceed to consultation. A decision had that week been taken by Cabinet at South Norfolk Council to not undertake the consultation and instead to recommend the GNLP to proceed with a single issue review, which was one of the potential options contained within the report. Effectively, without the consent of all three councils, the consultation could not take place but in any event the Assistant Director of Planning invited the Panel to consider the amended recommendations and formulate a view on the proposals for Cabinet.

Officers then answered questions from members. They confirmed that the search for sites would be ongoing and any sites put forward would be considered. They explained that the two main sources of site provision were private owned sites and public managed sites. No sites had come forward for potential use following the previous call for sites, hence why the current proposals were being promoted in an attempt to identify sites to fulfil the need. Members noted that planning policy required provision to be made for Gypsy and Traveller families who continued to travel, opposed to those who had permanently ceased travelling who were instead regarded as part of the settled community. Following a suggestion, it was agreed to replace references to “should” with “must” in respect of proposals for tree retention and archaeological protection in relation to all identified sites.

Members then voted on the recommendations subject to the following amended comments:

- To amend the second bullet point to read: “Agree to refer the matter back to Cabinet on 27 September 2022 after consultation to agree the final submission to the Independent Inspectors”;
- any references to Nutrient Neutrality issues would be updated as the Nutrient Neutrality issue progressed;
- replace references to “should” with “must” in respect of proposals for tree retention and archaeological protection in relation to all identified sites.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND Cabinet to:

1. approve a Focused Consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) proposed Gypsy and Traveller sites; and
2. Agree to refer the matter back to Cabinet on 27 September 2022 after consultation to agree the final submission to the Independent Inspectors

(The meeting concluded at 6.25pm)

_____ Chairman

Cancelled

Agenda Item:4
Communities, Housing, and Planning Policy Development Panel
14 September 2022

COST OF LIVING RESPONSE

Report Author: Mike Pursehouse
Assistant Director
01508 533861
mike.pursehouse@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Portfolio: Community, Housing and Planning

Ward(s) Affected: ALL

Purpose of the Report:

The rise in cost-of-living is being widely reported in the media. This report sets out the potential options for the Council to support residents with cost-of-living rises, and how these fits into the wider Government response.

Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

1. Recommend that Cabinet agrees the proposed programmes and direction of travel to support the cost-of-living rise, as set out in appendix one, and
2. Comment on other potential areas to explore, as set out in appendix two.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The cost-of-living for Broadland residents has already increased significantly during 2021/22, and with changes to energy prices, and inflation will continue to increase during this year.
- 1.2 With inflation, a likely recession, and still dealing with the effects of Covid, the cost-of-living will likely have an impact on all residents, businesses, and growth.
- 1.3 Due to the size of response required, the main financial support will have to come from central Government, which will be partly administrated by the Council.
- 1.4 Whilst the main framework of financial support will be centrally driven, the Council, with its ability to work closely with our communities, is best placed to identify, and support residents who are in most need, and galvanise community capacity and infrastructure.
- 1.5 This report focuses on the Councils response to supporting the cost of living and how we use our resources and assets to enable direct support and lobby Government. This is an initial response that we can start to implement straight away, with a further report to Cabinet once we have investigated options and have an understanding of potential support from central Government.
- 1.6 Many of staff also living in the district and the increase in cost of living will affect them, particularly our lower grade staff, who will also be able to benefit from these programmes. However, staff may also choose to leave lower paid roles, and this may have a potential impact on service delivery. This will be monitored separately.
- 1.7 Officers will be assessing the impact on resources to deal with contact with the Council to ensure we are able to meet demand, which will be part of the Cabinet report.

2. Background

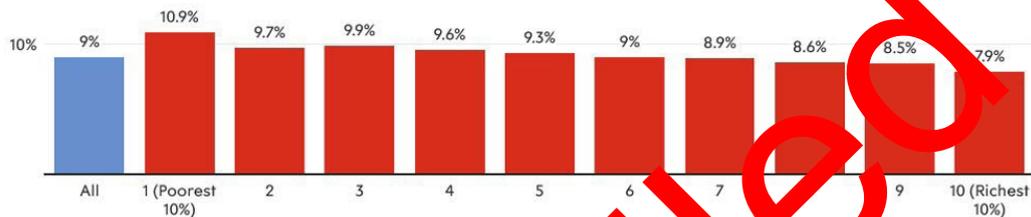
- 2.1 Millions of households across the UK are struggling to make their incomes stretch to cover the rising cost of living. Central Government is providing over £15 billion in further support, targeted particularly on those with the greatest need. This package is in addition to the over £22 billion announced previously, with government support for the cost of living now totalling over £37 billion this year.
- 2.2 This means that almost all of the eight million most vulnerable households in the UK will receive £1,200 of one-off support in total this year to help with the cost of living, with all domestic electricity customers receiving at least £400.
- 2.3 Increases in the cost of living will affect all households however, households on lower incomes will be affected more than richer households. See figure 1 This winter, low-income households will have to reduce their spending by three times as much as high-income households in order to afford their energy bills. This is due to poorer households spending a larger proportion of their budget on energy and food, as fig 2 below shows.

2.4 People aged between 55 and 74 years were more likely to be cutting their energy use than those in the majority of other age groups. Around 6 in 10 of those aged 55 to 64 years (58%) and 65 to 74 years (59%) reported doing so.

Figure 1

The poorest UK households face an inflation rate three percentage points higher than the richest 10 per cent

The year-on-year change in Consumer Price Index by household income decile, April 2022



Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies

NEW STATESMAN

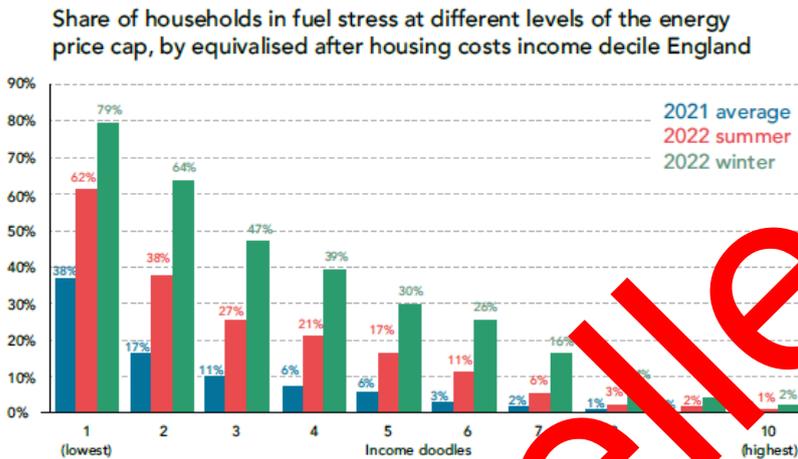
Figure 2



2.5 In terms of energy prices, fig 3 below shows the increase in fuel stress over the last three years. As clearly shown, the lowest income families are harder hit than the richest households.

Figure 3

Energy price rises hit poorer households harder because they spend 11% of household budgets on gas and electricity, compared to 4% for the richest households.



Source: resolution Foundation, 2022, Stressed out

2.6 As part of the overall Government support, the Council is administering the Household Support Fund in partnership with Norfolk County Council. An initial fund was allocated between September 2021 and March 2022, with a second tranche allocated in April 2022. Although not confirmed, indications are that the third tranche is likely in October. This fund provides small payment directly to households to provide immediate payments for support including food, energy, transport, clothing. The average payment is currently £150 and is targeted at families who need it the most.

2.7 * The energy rebate scheme administered by the Council, provides support according to Council tax bands directly to households. A £150 payment is provided to band A-D properties with a discretionary award available to other households.

2.8 Between January 2022 and June 2022, the Help Hub issued 479 food bank vouchers to vulnerable customers. In the first round of the Household Support Fund (December 2021 to March 2022) 464 households were supported with grants to buy food. Whilst we don't have comparative data for the same periods in previous years the size of the numbers shows a significant number of people in severe hardship

2.9 In June 2021 the Help Hub had 51 referrals with financial issues listed as a presenting need. In June 2022 this figure had risen to 179.

- 2.10 In July 2021 30 people were referred into the Financial Wellbeing Team for debt or money management support. By July 2022 this figure had risen to 55 for the same period. This includes specialist debt advice and more general budgeting support.
- 2.11 Across all the available data sets from Help Hub services engaged in tackling financial hardship we can see these common trends. The number of people in need of these services is likely to increase in line with increased economic pressures.
- 2.12 Times of domestic financial hardship (food, fuel and energy costs) inevitably lead to potential increases in crime, disorder and community safety concerns. Previous experience of acute economic austerity saw significant additional demands on policing, regulatory, community safety and environmental services to deal with more domestic disturbances and neighbourhood issues, petty and semi-organised crime, and greater needs for environmental clean-ups.

3. Current position/findings

- 3.1 With the onset of winter, and increasing energy costs from September, we are likely to see a significant number of residents affected by the cost-of-living rise. The predictions are suggesting that inflation will start to fall next year and be back to the target of 2% in around two years (Bank of England forecast).
- 3.2 Whilst costs will go up for all residents, we will be using reactive data, as well as using our new modelling tool 'LIFT' (low-income family tracker) to identify cohorts of households that will be the most adversely affected.
- 3.3 Through our help hub approach we are well placed to respond quickly to need. We demonstrated through the Covid pandemic that we can flex resource quickly to meet demand, and working collaboratively with our partners and communities, provide support locally right down to street level.
- 3.4 Through the in-year savings we have increased capacity within the help hub triage and assessment team and debt and welfare team to support residents who are in need. While direct payments to households have been invaluable, our approach will continue to be to complement immediate support with resources to help households support themselves, reducing the likelihood of needing support in the future.
- 3.5 The Warm Homes Programme is able to provide expert advice on saving energy as well as mediating with energy companies on behalf of our most vulnerable residents who are questioning their energy bills or are in energy debt.
- 3.6 The Warm Home Programme is also able to provide insulation and renewable heating systems at no cost to low-income residents living in poor energy efficiency homes. Thereby reducing the amount of energy needed to heat homes and as a consequence lower energy bills.
- 3.7 Through the emerging Health and Wellbeing Partnership, we are utilising covid money to increase hardship support, community capacity, healthy living and supporting secondary care. Staff have also been working with Citizens Advice to

look at further ways we can collaborate to improve joint working and information sharing.

- 3.8 The pilot of two early intervention / antisocial behaviour officers funded until March 2023 is providing for rapid response to new incidents, high visibility and community reassurance in local neighbourhoods, making a strong positive impact with excellent customer feedback. This additional service element in Regulatory services has been kept very busy but is able to prioritise incoming calls during the pilot and respond to escalating cost-of-living related community impacts, working closely with the council's prevention, diversionary activity and help hub services.

4. Proposed action

- 4.1 A framework of support is proposed to be adopted that will support residents through the cost-of-living rise. The aim of our approach will be to:
- Reduce the impact of cost-of-living rise on households
 - Reduce the ongoing impact on Council, and partners agency services
 - Offer community interventions where necessary to protect and keep people safe
- 4.2 While all households will be affected, lower income households will be unduly affected and therefore we will aim to focus particularly on households who are unable to:
- Meet fuel bills
 - Pay rent
 - Buy food
 - Run a vehicle to access work essential services and medical appointments
 - Ascertained from doorstep early interventions as having specific further needs
- 4.3 Data and intelligence will be critical to identify residents in need. Through Covid learning, it was clear that good quality data, mixed with local intelligence on the ground enabled a targeted approach. Using the new LIFT programme (see 3.2), we will be able to build up a local intelligence picture. Our aim will be to include partnership data where we are able to have access, including DWP and Housing Association data.
- 4.4 We successfully stood up a silver coordination group for both districts, to engage with our partners to coordinate activity. Since Covid, this model has been used to engage the partnership around Homes for Ukraine, Asylum dispersal and will again morph into support cost-of-living rise.
- 4.5 Our approach will be split into three work streams:
- **Crisis minimisation** – immediate response to hardship
 - **Recovery** – formal advice to address need
 - **Crisis prevention** – support households to reduce costs and to increase income.
- 4.6 Our residents need support now, therefore we will focus on key areas where we can mobilise quickly, to support residents during the winter months. This support will be largely within existing resources and utilising existing funding already

allocated from Government. Alongside this, we will explore longer term support options which will require lobbying of Government and strategic programmes.

- 4.7 To ensure we maintain pace, these programmes will be explored and implemented as required through the existing delegation powers within the Council, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder. Where needed, programmes will go through the formal governance process.
- 4.8 The proposed programmes are at Appendix One which are the initial tranche. This appendix details specific programmes we will be working on and is a high-level summary. An action plan will sit under this programme summary which will look at specific timescales and resource requirement which the portfolio holder will be regularly updated on.
- 4.9 An internal officer working group will start early September to drive forward this programme. Alongside this we will repurposing the partnership silver group, which was set up to deal with Covid, and morphed to focus on Ukraine. This group currently meets monthly but will be refreshed to ensure we have a total partnership response.
- 4.10 As with Covid and Ukraine workstreams, learning and feedback from residents and partners, along with data, will help inform us to amend and develop programmes as we progress through the winter.
- 4.11 We will be working with public health to see if we can request a reserve to support cost of living rise, to provide funding for programmes should we need additional funding. The Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has adopted an underpinning public health model for identifying and addressing root causes of problems, and we will be working with the CSP to monitor and respond to community safety needs.
- 4.12 The opportunities in appendices one and two are the potential programmes we can move forward. Further work will be completed to understand what programmes the resources must move forward now, and which need additional resource or funding, with the intention to bring to Cabinet in November.

5. **Issues and risks**

- 5.1 **Resource Implications** – There is insufficient resource to support this programme of works. Workstreams that can go ahead with existing resources will be moved forward quickly, other ideas in appendix one and two will need to be further developed and prioritised according to available resources. For major programmes, a business case will be completed for each programme which will include resource requirements.
- 5.2 Officers will also be working separately on resources required to deal with the increase in contact with the Council to present to Cabinet.
- 5.3 **Legal Implications** – There are no known legal impacts
- 5.4 **Equality Implications** – the cost-of-living rise will dis-proportionally affect low-income households and therefore this cohort will be targeted as a priority.

- 5.5 **Environmental Impact** – Whilst there are no direct environmental impacts for this proposal, inefficient homes will cost more to heat as well as producing more carbon emissions. This link will be explored further in the development of these proposals. Household and business financial difficulties are likely to lead to increased fly tipping and potential environmental pollution impacts of localised incidents and poorer maintenance of drainage, waste and fuel storage systems.
- 5.6 **Crime and Disorder** – Cost-of-living will put further tension on households and mental health, which is an underlying factor in crime and disorder. Increasing

Cancelled

poverty is commonly linked with increases in acquisitive crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental offending.

5.7 **Risks** – no specific risk identified.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 We are at a crucial time in supporting our vulnerable families through the escalating cost-of-living. The Council is closest to our communities, and as throughout Covid, can react quickly to identify and support vulnerable residents. As well as using our existing resources and our partners/communities' assets, we can look at longer term programmes/lobbying to reduce some of the impact of the cost-of-living on residents.

7. **Recommendations**

The committee is asked to:

1. Recommend that Cabinet agrees the proposed programmes and direction of travel to support the cost-of-living rise, as set out in appendix one, and
2. Comment on other potential areas to explore, as set out in appendix two.

Cancelled

**Appendix one – fully funded, and business as usual programmes
Crisis minimisation**

Programme	Funding	Timescales
Hardship identification. Learning from Covid, through internal and external sources, we will identify specific cohorts of households who are specifically at risk, who are likely to need immediate support.	Within existing budgets	September
Energy rebate scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £150 payments to council tax band A- D Discretionary payment £135170.00 of the total £151200 allocation 	Externally funded	Currently operational To be spent by November 2022
Household Support Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small grant payment to provide direct support to pay for essential costs. The average grant is circa £150. 	All funding allocated from tranche two	Second tranche complete in Sep 22, third tranche likely Oct 22.
Discretionary Housing payment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term payments to assist with shortfall in welfare payments, to allow people to remain in their homes £39800.00 remaining of the initial £81053.00 allocation 	Within existing budgets	Ongoing
Whatever it takes fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term payment to relieve, or prevent homelessness £32328.00 of the initial £52879.00 allocation 	External funding	Operational, Funding due to run out March 2023

<p>Council tax discretionary relief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term payment to assist with shortfall in Council tax • £9785.00 of the initial £15k allocation remaining 	<p>Within existing budgets</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Rough Sleeper Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct support to resolve rough sleeping 	<p>External funding</p>	<p>Current scheme operational until March 2025</p>
<p>Temporary accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-house and private sector leased accommodation to provide short terms housing support to resident 	<p>Within existing budgets</p> <p>Current budget deficit</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Overspend likely to be gross £50,814.00, net £27,502 (across both Councils)</p>
<p>Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff resource to ensure correct payments and support working age claimants into work / more income 	<p>Within existing budgets</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Community led support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities Team enabling and supporting communities/ Mutual Aid Groups who offer hyper-local responses as identified including engagement with food banks 	<p>Within existing budgets</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Community protection, anti-social behaviour, community safety and regulatory interventions and enforcement</p>	<p>Within existing budgets plus COMF funding in 2022/23</p>	<p>Review in Q3 2022-23 to decide whether to mainstream the two Early Intervention Anti-social Behaviour Officers from April 2023 following the pilot year</p>

Recovery

Programme	Funding	Timescales
<p>Financial Wellbeing Team, combining Debt Advice, Welfare Rights and money management support. 7 x staff directly focused on tackling debt, supporting financial wellbeing and stability</p>	<p>3 x staff permanent 3 x staff budget until Sept 2025 1 x staff budgeted until June 2023</p>	<p>Scaled up programme until 2025.</p>

Partnership development with Citizen Advice to explore further collaboration including joint bids	£9,750 from Health and Wellbeing Partnership	Proposal ready quarter 4 2022/23
Supporting Norfolk Community Law Service to provide free legal advice to vulnerable residents	£5,000	Ongoing
Support via help hub to access prevention help including, finance, mental and physical wellbeing, domestic abuse and housing.	Within existing budgets	Ongoing
Community Safety focussed problem-solving and reassurance work to maintain order and harmony in locally impacted communities.	Within existing budgets subject to review of Early Intervention Antisocial Behaviour Officers pilot	Ongoing Pilot service review in Q3 2022/23

Prevention

Programme	Funding	Availability	Timescales
Improving energy efficiency in the home through retrofitting existing homes and provision of energy and bill saving advice	Externally funded, Government under the Sustainable Warmth scheme and the Social	Programme agreed	March 2023
	Housing Decarbonisation Fund circa £6m for Norfolk		
Green loans for low-income families to upgrade their home with efficiency measures	Already agreed	Programme agreed	Start quarter 3 2022/3

Food waste Prevention - Recycling Team are looking at proactive work to increase impact to reduce household bills	Within existing budgets	Existing programme	Ongoing
Launch affordable cookbook, cooking for family for four for £40 per week	Within existing budgets	Cookbook being prepared ready for launch	Start quarter 3 2022/3
Pass on suitable bulky waste to Emmaus to recycle to families	Within existing budgets	Within internal existing capacity and skills resources	Start quarter 3 2022/3
Run two 'pop-up' reuse events next year to provide residents with access to free household items	Within existing budgets	Within internal existing capacity and skills resources	Start quarter 4 2022/3
Enforcement of minimum energy requirements in the rental sector. To ensure no property is rented below an E unless an exemption.	Within existing budgets	Within internal existing capacity and skills resources	Ongoing
Improved focus on Scams Partnership to promote about scamming dangers	Within existing budgets	Within internal existing capacity and skills resources We currently offer free half day sessions on cyber security for personal & business users in partnership with the police. Community Protection focus on deterring doorstep scammers.	Ongoing
Run courses on educating reducing your bills, managing household budgets etc.	£5k	Highly likely if funding found.	Start quarter 1 2023/4
New Business Builder Programme – Broadland small business grants	Norfolk Strategic Fund	Two-year programme Approved by Cabinet July 22 – only in BDC	Start quarter 3 2022/3

One stop shop for business regulatory support for successful start-up and assured compliance.	Pilot funded to January 2023	12-month pilot service to be reviewed in Q3 2022/23	Service beyond January 2023 to be determined
Support and compliance inspection business visits to food, safety and licensed premises, events and activities	Within existing budgets (service subject to review)	Within internal existing capacity and skills resources	Ongoing
Improving energy efficiency in the home through retrofitting existing homes	Externally funded, circa £6m for Norfolk	Funded by Government under the Sustainable Warmth Scheme and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	March 2023 Further funding expected 2023-2025

Cancelled

Appendix two – unfunded programmes which need funding identified or additional business cases

Programme	Funding	Feasibility	Timescales
Improving energy efficiency in the home through retrofitting existing homes	To be agreed	Initial discussions with District Council Network have resulted in a small working group set up to lobby Government to release further funding to districts to retro fit existing homes through loans/grants. Major UK wide programme that would need significant project planning and Government investment.	
Employment support for those who are under-employed, including young people and second income.	Choices programme core funded, enhanced will require additional funding - Covid funding in SNC	Current choices programme running review of future support programme instigated which will include learning from Choices work4all and kiks etc.	Quarter 4 2022/3
Affordable transport	To be determined	One of the key barriers to employment opportunity. Lobbying programme to provide cheaper transport / improved infrastructure options Major programme that would need significant project planning and Government investment	To be agreed
Improving Private Sector rented sector housing	To be determined	Significant reforms proposed in Government white paper which affects both enforcement and supply. Major programme that would need significant project planning	To be agreed

Cancelled

Warm Spaces – provide funding to existing community groups to provide warm, safe spaces to reduce heating costs and links to support services	£15k	Business case being drawn up	Start quarter 3 2022/3
Social supermarket. Access to affordable food and learning how to cook efficiently	£10k	Will need business case and additional funding. Work with our existing foodbanks to explore who have potential access to facilities to offer cookery sessions using the ingredients available within the bank. There is potential to work with the Joy of Food to provide this as an offer.	Start quarter 4 2022/3
Digital courses to support people to access on-line discounts	£5k	Highly likely if funding found. Potential to work with adult learning and libraries	Start quarter 4 2022/3
Proactive assessment and support to ensure older people are claiming the benefits that they are eligible for.	£5k	Within internal existing capacity and skills resources	Start quarter 3 2022/3
Run courses on educating reducing your bills, managing household budgets etc.	£5k	Highly likely if funding found.	Start quarter 1 2023/4
Supporting people with Chronic Obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who are in fuel poverty to prevent cold homes aggravating the condition.	To be determined	Raised at the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, discussions progressing,	To be confirmed

Cold winter packs created to provide extra clothing, blankets, food, warm containers to people who need immediate support.	To be determined	The Council has operated these before with NHS funding, this will be explored	Start quarter 3 2022/3
--	------------------	---	------------------------

Cancelled