



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Report title: Cost of Living Update

**Date:** 21 February 2023

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Catherine Mbema (Director of Public Health)

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Lewisham Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis. It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny:

- Listen to, and comment on, the verbal updates provided by the Director of Public Health and the Select Committee Chairs

## 1 Summary

- 1.1. A verbal update on Lewisham's response to the Cost of Living crisis, which builds on existing support already in place for residents, will be provided by the Director of Public Health.
- 1.2. The Chairs of the Healthier Communities; Safer Stronger Communities; and Children and Young People Select Committees will provide an update on the work their committees have undertaken in relation to this issue.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to listen to, and comment on, the verbal updates provided.

## 3 Update

- 3.1 The Director of Public Health will provide the Committee with a verbal update on Lewisham's response to the Cost of Living crisis, which builds on existing support already in place for residents.
- 3.2 Updates will also be provided by the Chairs of:
  - The Healthier Communities Select Committee – which has reviewed the draft Food Justice Action Plan and considered the commitment to providing Warm Havens for residents where they can spend time when the weather turns colder.

- The Children and Young People Select Committee – which has considered the cost of living crisis from the perspective of children and young people and visited Watergate School to talk to staff and parents about this issue.
- The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee – which has reviewed the Cost of Living programme from an equalities perspective to ensure that support is being provided in an equitable way for Lewisham residents.

## **4 Financial implications**

- 7.1 One off funding to support the development and delivery of this work has been agreed by the s151 Officer.

## **5 Legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

## **6 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 Certain demographics are known to be more vulnerable to the cost of living crisis. This work is being established with a data and insight base that will support our equalities aims.

## **7 Climate change and environmental implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications, however fuel poverty could have an indirect implication upon these factors.

## **8 Crime and disorder implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications.

## **9 Health and wellbeing implications**

- 9.1 Stress and anxiety are often known impacts on residents facing financial pressures.

## **10 Background papers**

- 10.1 None.

## **11 Report author and contact**

- 11.1 Catherine Mbema (Director of Public Health)