

CABINET – 13TH OCTOBER 2022

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

COST OF LIVING – SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Cost of Living – Support to Communities report.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Chief Executive.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The maximum £180k of funding from the Reinvestment Reserve would be used to directly support communities and businesses. Council resources such as officer time were part of the running costs of the Council and would not be drawn from this sum.
- ii. The Council had identified a number of themes and options which outlined the work that may be undertaken using the £180k in funding.
- iii. The Council had considered providing printed materials for distribution to target groups, in addition to the information which would be made available online. It was suggested by the Scrutiny Commission that the Council includes a wide range of noticeboards, libraries and Parish and Town Councils across the Borough to promote the support available to communities.
- iv. It was suggested that the wording in the report be changed where a 'pot of funding' was referred to. Alternative phrases to incorporate into the report were 'accounts' or 'funding schemes'.
- v. Members were encouraged to suggest initiatives and schemes offering support to communities and businesses through the Community Development Team at the Council.

- vi. The Big Switch programme was not available at this time. However, when the programme became available again the Council would look to reinstate this form of support.
- vii. There was support available to homeowners, such as the Council Tax rebate scheme and the ECO4 scheme outlined in the report.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 36 2022/23, 10th October 2022
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