

ACTION PLAN: Review of Cost of Living Response

No.	Recommendation	Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
1	That findings from this review will inform the development of the Council's Anti-Poverty Action Plan/Strategy as part of the 'Powering Our Futures' programme. This will be coordinated with partners and will advocate the importance of lived experience.	<p>Findings from this review shared with Anti-Poverty Project Group and included in Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan. This work forms part of the 'Powering Our Futures Programme' under the 'Communities' Mission strand.</p> <p>Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to be presented to Lived Experience Group for comment and consultation.</p> <p>Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan to be presented to Cabinet for approval in September 2024.</p> <p>Implementation of Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan and continuing dialogue with Anti-Poverty Project Group and Lived Experience Group.</p>	<p>Anti-Poverty Project Group received findings from scrutiny review and findings included in Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan approved by Lived Experience Group.</p> <p>Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>Ongoing conversations with Anti-Poverty Project Group and Lived Experience Group to ensure Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan is fulfilling aims.</p>	<p>A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (FSOT) Team/ Anti-Poverty Project Group</p> <p>FSOT Team</p> <p>FSOT Team</p> <p>FSOT Team</p>	<p>April 2024</p> <p>April 2024</p> <p>September 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	That the Council continues to work with schools and governors to address the issues around the affordability of school uniform and provide options to expand the provision of pre-loved uniforms are explored, through devising an action plan clearly outlining the steps to be taken to address these issues. The action plan will be shared with the Committee and progress reported as part of the wider	<p>Council Officers to develop action plan.</p> <p>Action plan to be approved by People Select Committee.</p>	<p>Action plan created.</p> <p>Action plan approved.</p>	<p>Haleem Ghafoor/ Rebecca Saunders-Thompson/ Vanessa Housley</p> <p>Haleem Ghafoor/Rebecca Saunders-Thompson</p>	<p>April/May 2024</p> <p>May 2024</p>

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	recommendations. In addition, the Council will meet with Multi-Academy Trust school improvement leads to advocate the need for affordable school uniforms and the ongoing promotion of pre-loved ones.	Action plan to be carried out and progress reported to People Select Committee until completion.	Updates on progress and completion of action plan.	Haleem Ghafoor/Rebecca Saunders-Thompson	May 2025
3	That the income maximisation service is widely promoted through Stockton News and social media channels as a means of assisting residents with debt management and financial difficulties.	<p>This area of work is covered by the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Pension Credit advice and support drop-in sessions to be held in Community Spaces across the Borough.</p> <p>Continued partnership working on debt management and financial support advice services with Stockton District Information and Advice Service (SDAIS) and Moneywise (Tees Credit Union).</p>	<p>Strategy and Action Plan will be delivered as above (recommendation 1).</p> <p>Increase in residents accessing pension credit advice and support with applying for pension credits.</p> <p>Residents continue to be supported and access debt management and financial support services.</p>	<p>FSOT Team/ Communications Team</p> <p>FSOT Team (coordination)/ Revenues, Benefits and Welfare Team (delivery)</p> <p>FSOT Team (coordination)/ Revenues, Benefits and Welfare team, SDAIS and Moneywise (delivery)</p>	<p>May 2025/Ongoing</p> <p>December 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
4	That, building on the success of previous staff drop-in sessions around Cost of Living this targeted approach continues where there is a need.	<p>FSOT Team stall at the Employee Engagement Day on 15th May 2024.</p> <p>Staff drop-in sessions to be arranged across a range of services/workplaces.</p>	<p>Staff provided with Cost of Living advice and support.</p> <p>Staff provided with targeted support and advice on Cost of Living issues.</p>	<p>FSOT Team</p> <p>FSOT Team</p>	<p>May 2024</p> <p>May 2025/Ongoing</p>

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5	That, building on the existing success of the work undertaken, to continue to build on best practice from across the country working alongside the LGA.	<p>Continue to attend LGA Cost of Living Network.</p> <p>Consultation with LGA and other Council representatives, when developing projects and strategies, as appropriate.</p> <p>Consultation of evidence-based research when developing projects and strategies, as appropriate. For example from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Children North East Poverty Proofing</p> <p><i>(For information – Manchester City Council have already been consulted during the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.)</i></p>	Future strategies and projects will be enhanced by continued engagement with the wider public sector.	FSOT Team	Ongoing