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**To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Subject: One Coventry response to supporting our communities with the Cost of Living Crisis**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with an outline of the potential impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on Coventry's communities and our cross-organisational One Coventry response to this. This note sets out the approach being taken by the Council and partners to ensure that residents and communities are supported as far as possible over the coming months and beyond.

**2 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

- 2.1 Note the One Coventry approach being taken to support Coventry's residents and communities with the Cost of Living Crisis
- 2.2 Play an active role in raising awareness of cost of living support, available to residents and communities.

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Cost of Living Crisis is a national issue. Given the scale of the challenges that this presents, the ability for Coventry City Council and other local authorities to respond is limited.
- 3.2 Through a One Coventry approach, in partnership with community, voluntary, statutory sector organisations and businesses, Coventry City Council has facilitated a One Coventry response to the rising costs of living. We have strong foundations in place, created through our partnership and community work, that can be built upon to enable a comprehensive and impactful response. By targeting existing resources and engagement at the most vulnerable groups in our communities it is possible to support those with the greatest need.
- 3.3 Coventry's partnership response has included the creation of an online single point of access hub for all cost of living and wellbeing related information (<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cost-living-wellbeing-support>). This contains information about financial support with energy and housing costs, support with food, fuel and other essential items, support to households at financial risk, and information and advice on benefits, debt and housing matters.
- 3.4 There is no current indication that further additional resources are likely to be made available to local government to support a local response to the Cost of Living Crisis. The One Coventry approach is proving to be the most effective way to enable cross-

organisational collaboration, ensuring existing resources are maximised to support our residents and communities.

- 3.5 Communication and engagement are important aspects of building awareness and connections with residents and businesses. A One Coventry communications campaign has been launched and will be further developed to ensure key messages, assets and resources are used to maximise reach into our communities.
- 3.6 The supporting slide deck that will be presented at the meeting is attached to provide additional background information.

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