



# One Coventry response to supporting our communities with the Cost of Living Crisis

Scrutiny  
Co-ordination Committee

9th November 2022



# Context – key messages

- The Cost of Living Crisis is a national issue
- Ability for Coventry City Council to respond is limited
- Significant range of support already in place with solid foundations created through the work that we do with our partners and communities
- The actions we take to deliver our One Coventry Plan priorities will create longer term positive change for people who live, work or study in the city

# One Coventry approach to tackling inequalities and responding to the Cost of Living Crisis

- The need to work differently, in order to respond to current and future needs of our communities, is well recognised
- Our partnership work means that we are in a strong position to support our residents through the Cost of Living Crisis
- We will continue to work creatively with our collective resource, in collaboration with our residents, communities and partners to:
  - make the biggest possible positive impact and;
  - enable us to deliver our One Coventry Plan priority to improve outcomes and tackle inequalities in our communities.



# What the research tells us

## A Breakdown of the Rising Cost of Living

September 2022

Amount needed each week for a single working adult to reach the minimum standard of living in the UK\*



\* Excluding rent and childcare

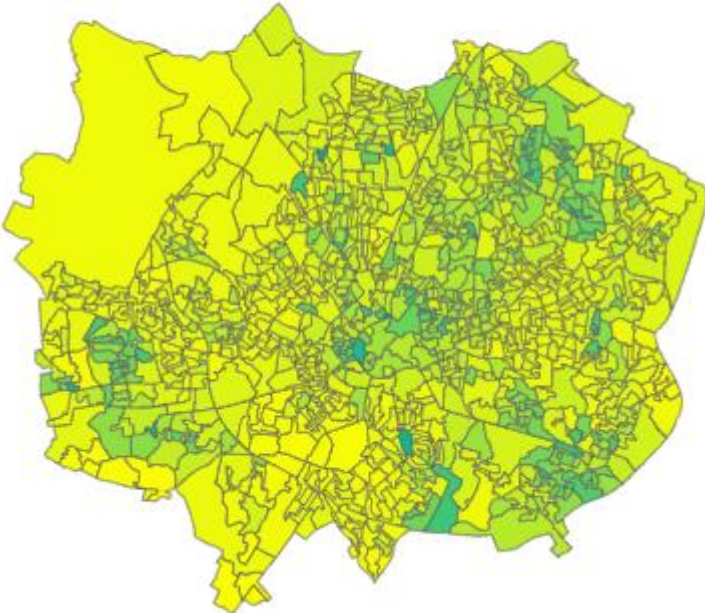
Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation



# One example of the challenges being faced...

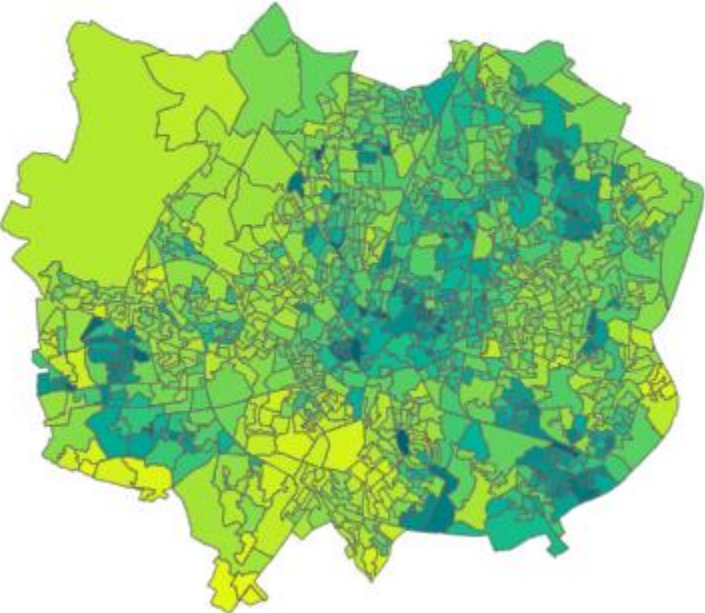
## Fuel Poverty last Winter

...in October 2021



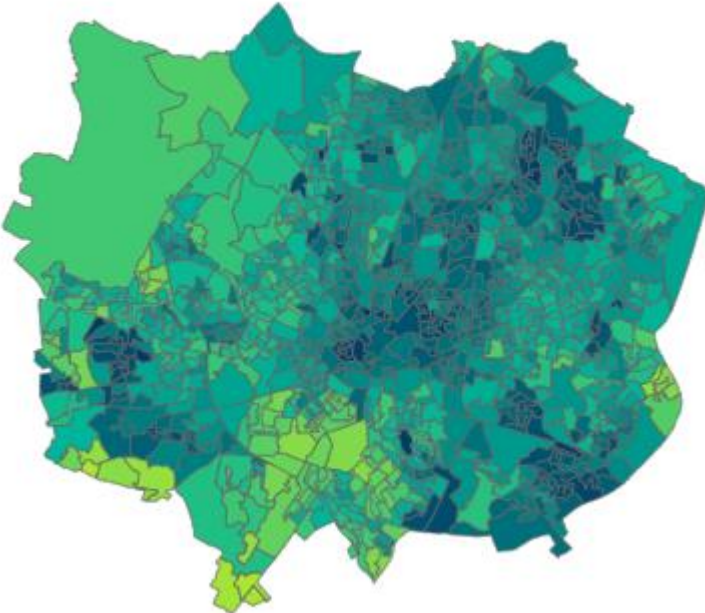
## 3x as much this Winter

...by Oct 2022 with cap



## Was to be 5x as much

...by October 2022

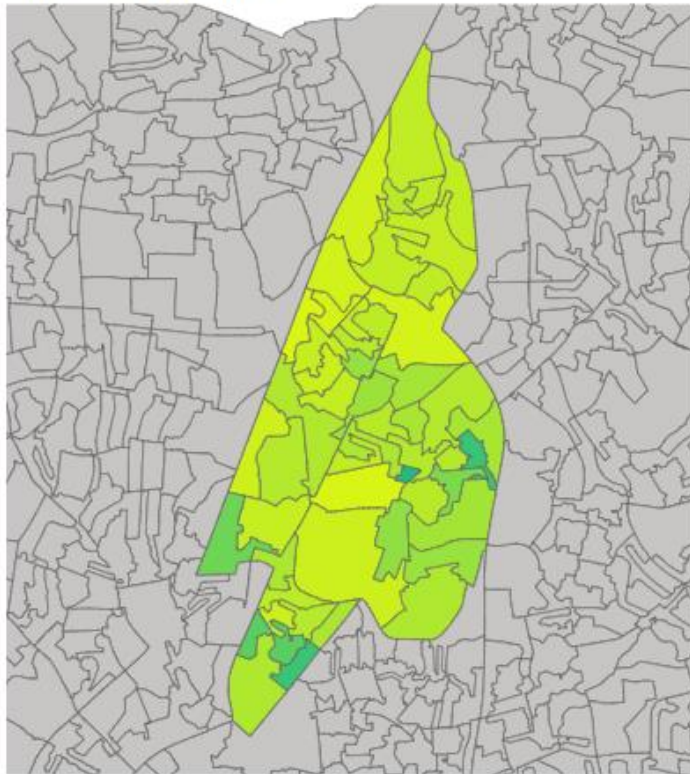


<https://coventry-city-council.github.io/cost-of-living/>

# What this means for our communities

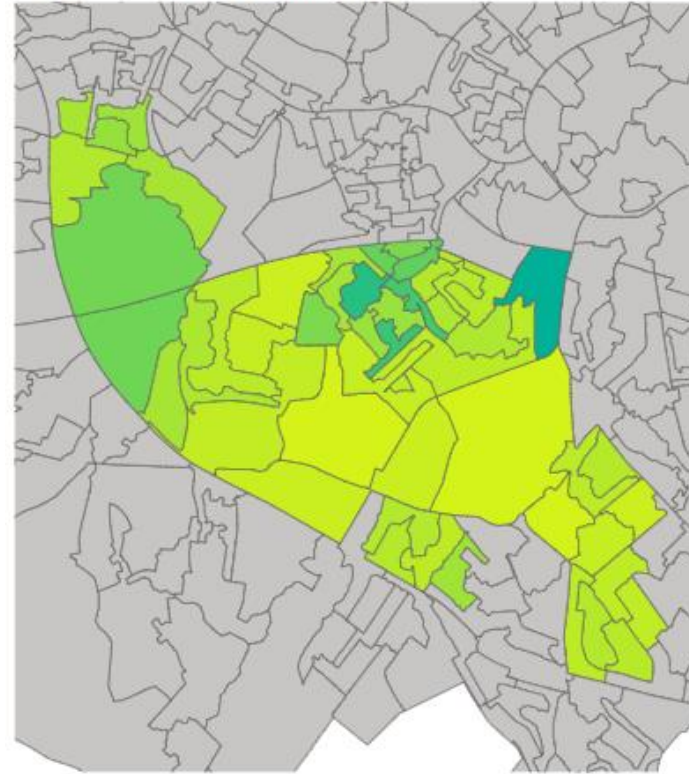
## Foleshill last Winter

...in October 2021



## Earlsdon this Winter

...by Oct 2022 with cap



## The richest wards this winter will have more Fuel Poverty than the poorest wards last winter

Households spending 10% of income to stay warm in...

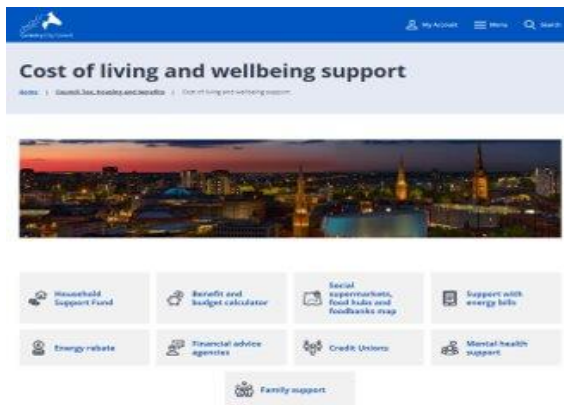
Ward	Households	Oct 2021	Apr 2022	Oct 2022	Oct 2022 w/cap
Bablake	6724	8.42%	17.45%	52.48%	27.49%
Binley and Willenhall	7952	17.51%	32.29%	71.29%	45.82%
Cheylesmore	8298	10.55%	21.26%	58.27%	32.54%
Earlsdon	6369	4.78%	11.13%	41.20%	18.97%
Foleshill	8345	15.58%	30.31%	72.17%	44.53%
Henley	8852	15.74%	29.62%	68.70%	42.77%
Holbrook	7703	9.44%	20.13%	59.53%	31.96%
Longford	8561	14.73%	28.49%	68.67%	41.87%
Lower Stoke	9913	9.40%	19.89%	58.15%	31.36%
Radford	9579	13.05%	25.91%	66.06%	38.88%
Sherbourne	7504	10.52%	21.18%	57.77%	32.33%
St Michael's	14804	15.69%	31.03%	74.09%	45.88%
Upper Stoke	8469	11.99%	24.51%	65.24%	37.48%
Wainbody	5005	5.23%	12.18%	44.12%	20.67%
Westwood	8628	11.35%	22.43%	59.19%	33.84%
Whoberley	7861	8.16%	18.42%	57.76%	30.08%
Woodlands	8094	11.34%	22.31%	57.79%	33.39%
Wyken	7460	9.91%	20.15%	56.37%	31.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150120</b>	<b>11.77%</b>	<b>23.56%</b>	<b>61.87%</b>	<b>35.64%</b>

# Current and potential impacts on residents, workforce and the organisation

- Coventry Citizens Advice report customers presenting with **debt issues** in 21/22 **increasing by 132%** from 20/21
- Anticipate much **less disposable income** for households in the city, impacting **not just those on lowest incomes**, e.g. impact of higher interest rates and consequent mortgage/rent payment increases
- Likely **increase in demand** for support like **Discretionary Housing Payments, Community Support Grants and Household Support Fund**; Increased demand for **public grant support**
- Children's Services report foster carers struggling and strain on staff over costs (particularly fuel) might **impact recruitment and retention**
- Pressure on families expected to cause **increased demand in Children's Services** including Early Help, SEND and Section 17 budget
- **More health issues** including cold-related hydration and nutrition issues, increase in people with mental health challenges – could draw **more people into health system**, then care
- Likely increase in domestic violence, crime, and anti-social behaviour
- Increased demand for **business support services** to help businesses deal with inflationary and costs pressures including energy
- Increased support for **culture and sports organisations** struggling to meet costs and demands; **voluntary and community sector organisations** experiencing **increased operating costs and fewer donations**



# Support available



<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cost-living-wellbeing-support>

## Current CCC support

- Energy Rebate
- Council Tax Support
- Discretionary Housing Payment
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Community Support Grant
- Household Support Fund
- Digital Inclusion
- Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) campaigns
- Money Helper

## Support commissioned or provided in partnership



## External support





# Cost of Living Forum – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

**35 organisations  
attended  
(circa 85 people)**

**Focused  
discussions  
on areas for  
action  
determined  
by the group**

- Equipping people to provide immediate help or advice
- Maximising income
- Integrated/holistic support
- Food distribution/ procurement & other food support
- Shared community and warm spaces

**Pledges from  
organisations  
to action and  
opportunities  
for  
collaboration  
identified**

Emerging themes:

- Energy
- Food
- Skills/ Education
- Awareness/ Messaging
- Collective use of resources
- Partnership/ Community located
- Funding opportunities
- Inclusion
- Data Sharing

**Outputs  
shared with  
attending  
organisations  
with request  
to...**

- Progress with their pledges
- Inform prioritisation of activity
- Identify which actions they/or their forums will lead on e.g. Poverty Alliance/Food Network

# Summary and next steps

- Communications campaign launched and will continue over coming months
- Integrated partnership approach is the strongest position to respond to the Cost of Living Crisis – we aren't yet seeing the full impact
- Effective targeting of resources will be critical to ensure those who are most in need are supported as far as possible
- Continue to test new approaches, learn from other local authorities, build on good practice, and ensure that resident and community voice is at the heart of all that we do

