

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: COST OF LIVING CRISIS

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR ENTERPRISE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PRIORITY: PEOPLE FIRST, SUSTAINABILITY, A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This note highlights proposed items scheduled in the work programme for the Cabinet Panel on Community Engagement and Enterprise for 2022/23 following the initial meeting. As at Appendix A, the Work Programme/Action Tracker allow the scene to be set for evaluation and the agreement of topics for 2022/23. This allows the Cabinet Panel to set a work programme which enables open discussion that may lead to recommendations to Cabinet /the relevant Executive Members or Service Director, regarding actions that they believe that the Council should be taking to address community engagement and enterprise within North Herts.

2. STEPS TO DATE

2.1 . There are no steps to date as this is the first meeting set up to investigate this specific topic.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

3.1 This Cabinet Panel aims to provide the opportunity for organisations to express their concerns about operating in a Cost-of-Living crisis.

3.2 The panel will be receiving presentations from:

Rosie Waters – CEO of Citizens Advice North Herts who will talk briefly how the crisis is affecting the residents of North Herts and the knock-on effects to the organisation. We have also invited representatives from; Churches Together, NHCVS, Herts County Council, NHC Revenues and Benefits team, settle group housing association, groups involved in food provision and supporting homelessness.

3.2.1 Discussion at this meeting will be facilitated and focus around three questions to be posed to the group:

1. How is the situation effecting your organisation and the people you deal with?

2 Do you have a strategy to deal with it?

3 Can we work together on this, is there a need for a Cost-of-Living response group for North Herts?

3.2 The Panel will seek to ensure that consideration of agenda items minimises additional burdens on staff resources. Wherever possible, requests are made for the presentation of documents already in existence rather than the production of new documents specifically for the Panel.

3.3 Attendance from external bodies and members of the public is actively encouraged.

- 3.4 This is a non-decision-making advisory body and therefore this or any notes/reports to the Panel do not include a recommendation on a key Executive decision and have not been referred to in the Forward Plan. However, recommendations for action from the Panel for consideration by Cabinet may do so. This will therefore need to be borne in mind for any recommendations of the Panel.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Other topics for consideration and inclusion in the Panel's work programme will be considered at each meeting. When considering additional topics, their risk assessment and prioritisation will ensure that the most appropriate items are taken forward to the work programme

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Work Plan and action tracker

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author: **Policy and Community Engagement**
Claire Morgan – Community Engagement Team Leader
Claire.morgan@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474226

Contributors:
Commercial
Steve Crowley – Service Director - Enterprise
Steve.crowley@north-herts.gov.uk
01462 474211

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None