

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - 31 JANUARY 2023

COST OF LIVING SYSTEMS AND ACTIONS

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on the systems and actions being implemented by Angus Council and its partners to address the impact of the cost of living crisis on our citizens and communities.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Acknowledge the work currently being undertaken to support people with the cost of living across Angus.
- (ii) Consider the scope and effectiveness of the systems established by the Council and its partners to address the impact of the cost of living crisis on our citizens and communities.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following strategic priorities in the Angus Council Plan, we want:

- To maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
- Our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The cost of living is increasing. People are making difficult decisions regarding buying food, heating their houses, and changing their lifestyles. This situation is compounded as many low-income households entered the cost of living crisis following/whilst experiencing the Covid-19 pandemic, the storms of 21/22 and reforms to the benefits system.
- 3.2 Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 27 October 2022 requested that an update on Angus Council's progress in relation to poverty and cost of living be brought to future Scrutiny and Audit Committees. In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, this report details the systems and actions established by the council along with our partners. It should however be highlighted that while the Council and its partners can do much to support people and households we neither have all the resources, nor control all the levers that may be required to solve such issues.
- 3.3 An update on the cost of living crisis as part of the [Recovery and Renewal report](#) was noted at Angus Council on the 3 November 2022, report 362/22.
- 3.4 In addition, Angus Council approved the distribution of £1.672m from the Scottish Government [Local Authority Covid-19 Economic Recovery LACER Fund](#) on the 30 June 2022, report 180/22 and a [further report](#) 3 November, report 363/22. The monies from this fund targeted the following areas:
 - Child Poverty
 - Fuel Poverty/Cost of living
 - Food Poverty
 - Climate Change/Transport Poverty

- Town Centres - Economic Growth

A breakdown of spend can be seen in figure 1 below:

Figure 1 – Allocation of LACER Funds

Local Authority Covid-19 Economic Recovery (LACER) Funding	Angus Allocation
	£1,666,869
Town Centres – Economic Growth - Support for Local Economic Recovery	£400,000
Child Poverty – One-off Support Payments	£350,000
Child Poverty – Welfare Rights and Social Care discretionary funds	£150,000
Fuel Poverty/Cost of Living – One-off Support Payments/Vouchers	£400,000
Food Poverty – Funding to Support Agencies & Capacity Building	£100,000
Climate Change/Transport Poverty – Targeted Free Public Transport	£150,000
Approved Allocation for additional spend or new projects	£17,000
TOTAL ALLOCATED	£1,567,000
UNCOMMITTED	£99,869

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Angus Council and its partners are working to ensure support is given to those who need it most. A [Cost of Living webpage](#) has been set up with all relevant information and contact details. The Corporate Communications team regularly updates the page and social media with relevant information, as well as sharing local community information on the cost of living. Support on the cost of living was highlighted through the Angus Council Advent Calendar, and best practice is being shared with the Public Sector Communications group for Tayside and North East Scotland. As at mid-December this site has received over 9,700 unique visitors.

4.2 At the time of writing, the Vibrant Communities team working with colleagues and partners, had delivered four Roadshows, in Arbroath, Brechin, Forfar and Montrose. Over 20 partners have been present at each event and well over 400 members of the public had attended in total. Qualitative feedback from some of those who have attended these roadshows is provided in Appendix 1. Further monies from the LACER fund have enabled the delivery of further Roadshows with events in Newtyle and Kirriemuir taking place in February. Further targeted support from the relevant partners will then be planned.

4.3 A campaign titled ‘no one should be alone or cold this winter’ has promoted the [Community Spaces](#) available in Angus. These have been mapped out and can be found on the Angus Council Cost of Living webpage and are being updated as new spaces and activity is launched. Work is ongoing with community groups and village halls to build resilience, and support to apply for funding. This has resulted in successful applications to enable additional services and activities to be available for the wider community.

4.4 Local Authority Covid-19 Economic Recovery LACER Fund Update

4.4.1 Town Centres – Economic Growth - Support for Local Economic Recovery

The Angus Independent Retailer Programme is now underway. This programme is being delivered by Elevator, on behalf of Angus Council. On offer is tailored business support and advice to individual businesses, supported by a small grant award if applicable and more general specialist advice. Elevator have over 72 retail business signed up, undertaken initial visits to all town centres and will undertake further targeted visits to Forfar, Brechin and Monifieth.

All webinars through the portal are now live and access granted for initial business sign ups. There is over 5 hours of webinar content alongside supporting documentation. To be eligible for the further grant support on offer each business will require to complete both online and in person consultancy support.

The business health checks are underway alongside 1-2-1 expert retail consultancy support. Details of the grant process are currently being finalised and will thereafter go live to retail businesses being supported by Elevator.

Another strand of this work is also underway, working with representatives from local businesses across our towns to build capacity and develop initiatives and ideas for improving and focusing on the town centres.

4.4.2 **Child Poverty – One-off Support Payments and Discretionary Support Fund**

Payments from the LACER fund totalling £263,000 were made in November to parents/carers of P1-5 children who are eligible for school clothing grants and those in P6-S6 eligible for Free School Meals. 2,365 individuals (one payment per eligible child) were supported, benefiting 1,595 families. This total included payments to eligible home-schooled children.

A discretionary fund has been set up with the remaining funds to support families with the cost of living but who do not meet the criteria for means-tested payments. This fund is allocated at the discretion of each headteacher.

Information gathered from headteachers has produced intelligence regarding the financial strain families are experiencing. From the responses received, 70% of headteachers plan to use funding for supermarket food/voucher support, as they feel this is less stigmatising for families. The remainder will support energy costs, foodbank provision and warm clothing. Evidence suggests that more working families are asking for help/crisis intervention. One school reported 20 approaches by parents in two days, 6 of whom were known to be 'in work' families. We asked headteachers what they thought the main needs of their families were. This data (Appendix 2) compares April 2022 and December 2022 Survey & Findings.

4.4.3 **Tackling Poverty - Welfare Rights Discretionary Fund**

The Welfare Rights team continues to serve and support the citizens of Angus with all matters relating to welfare benefits and debt issues. Since the start of the new financial year in April 2022 (and as at 31 December) the service has dealt with 3,213 new enquiries and assisted people with obtaining £4,609,910 in financial gains. Figure 2 below shows the increase in enquiries in the last year.

The team also operates a discretionary fund to alleviate financial crisis and insecurity where there are no other options available. During the past 3 months they have been able to assist Angus citizens in crisis by distributing £6,244 for essential living costs and items, £2,300 has been distributed in Supermarket Vouchers and 17 citizens supported with travel passes.

In partnership with Macmillan the Welfare Rights team have a dedicated Welfare Rights Officer who assists and supports people and their families on a cancer journey. This vital service has seen a significant increase in demand during the past 4 months.

The Maximise Angus! project operated by the Welfare Rights team continues to grow and is now seeing an increase in demand from our Education and Lifelong Learning service. In the past 4 months the two Financial Wellbeing Practitioners have attended 14 school and community sessions to make themselves available to give advice and support to, in the region of, 90 parents with children at Angus schools. They have also dealt with 71 referrals and achieved £183,196 in financial gains so far.

The Welfare Rights team also continues to be at the forefront of helping Ukrainian displaced persons. To date over 190 meetings have been held with a total of 292 adults and children and £51,600 in welcome payments paid out, travel passes distributed and benefit claims made.

Figure 3 Welfare Rights Enquiry comparison 2021-2022

Month	2021	2022	Increase
September	305	330	7%
October	276	366	25%
November	311	376	17%

4.4.4 Food Poverty – Funding to Support Agencies and Capacity Building

The Food Poverty funding has been distributed throughout the communities of Angus. This fund aims to support food agencies and community groups to assist with increased demand. The fund has helped build the capacity to provide sustainable solutions to reduce food poverty in Angus.

Twenty-one applications were received, totalling £159,594. Seventeen applicants were awarded full or partial funding to deliver community food projects offering healthy eating/no-cost initiatives. An extra £3,717 was allocated on top of the original £100,000 to accommodate these. All projects are well underway, and outcomes will be monitored.

4.4.5 Climate Change/Transport Poverty – Targeted Free Public Transport

Transport was identified as an area where financial assistance can positively impact people. This fund aims to provide free travel to targeted groups of people in Angus with free bus travel to support our lowest-income households.

Bus passes are currently being allocated through referrals made by the following Council staff and agreed partners:

- Parental Engagement Officer (Education and Lifelong Learning)
- Vibrant Communities Team
- Welfare Rights
- Voluntary Action Angus
- Jobcentre Plus
- Skills and Employability Team

This scheme was launched on 1 December 2022.

4.4.6 Fuel Poverty/Cost of Living – One-off Support Payments/Vouchers

Financial assistance has been made available through the Angus Heatwell Scheme and distributed to support the cost of living. The fund aimed to support the eligible citizens of Angus struggling to heat their homes this winter. Vouchers of the value up to £294 have been issued to households with prepayment meters, direct debit accounts and oil accounts. The charity Scarf delivers the scheme and also offers a range of advice on energy efficiency and ways to reduce energy costs. The table in figure 2 shows the breakdown of payments:

Figure 3: Angus Heatwell Financial Assistance Breakdown report

Summary Table		Month 1	Month 2	Totals
Fuel Vouchers				
Number of vouchers issued		2,481	2,601	5,082
Number of payments made to fuel supplier		269	300	569
Number of households receiving a voucher		492	497	989
Spend on vouchers/payments		£188,160	£195,553	£383,713
Cost of vouchers		£3,225	£3,381	£6,606
Total fund spent		£191,385	£198,934	£390,319

4.5 Monitoring the Cost of Living Crisis

4.5.1 Given the pace at which the cost of living crisis is unfolding and the depth with which it could impact households and organisations, a longitudinal data collection and analysis study is being undertaken to enable Angus Council and its partners to be sighted on and fully understand the impact and pace of change resulting from increases in the cost of living. The Vibrant Communities team will engage with partners and council services to understand the effect of higher food costs; higher energy costs; and fuel poverty on people and services, along with any emerging trends that are occurring in localities. This engagement and monitoring will allow us to understand the experience of how people and services are moving through the crisis, how their needs are changing, and provide insight into the root causes of issues and what solutions can be implemented and where.

4.5.2 Several partners and services in Angus have signed up to contribute to the data collection. The data collected will show trends in the abovementioned areas. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected. This long-term study will aim to understand:

- What immediate cost of living issues are emerging for people and services?
- What measures people are taking to cope with rising food, energy and fuel bills and any other costs?
- What solutions people and services are implementing, and what is the impact?

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations in this report. LACER funding is supporting much of the work currently underway.

Demand pressures on services are being monitored. It is possible that the cost of living crisis will endure for some time yet and these ongoing service and support demands will create challenges about the level of support the Council and its partners can sustain, particularly once the current LACER funding is exhausted.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Screening has been completed and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this is a reflective report on work that has been carried out to support the Cost of Living. All equality issues have been considered where projects and initiatives have been carried out.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Engagement with partners and services is ongoing to monitor the impact of the increased cost of living, and information gathered has been documented in this report. Information will continue to be gathered and presented in further reports to Committee as appropriate.

Relevant officers have been consulted in the production of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 Cost of Living Roadshow information
Appendix 2 Headteacher survey and data information

Cost of Living Roadshows

Cost of Living Roadshow is a collaborative way to support those most vulnerable to access help and support. The project has been designed to support to low-income households, that are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis, Evaluations to date have evidenced the positive impact of this work at times being spoken as life changing for those who have attended. Partners are increasing the public knowledge of their service and how to access support and managing instant referrals and direct interventions. partners have also developed better referral pathways between each other at local and national level (e.g. SFRS & CAB). Once all Roadshows have been evaluated, further information will be available.

At the time of the Committee four Roadshows will have been delivered with a further two scheduled in February:

Arbroath Cost of Living Road Show:

Date – Wednesday 5 November 2022
approx. public attendance 200, partners 22

Brechin Cost of Living Road Show:

Date – Wednesday, 30 November 2022
approx. public attendance 80, partners 20

Forfar Cost of Living Road Show:

Date – Wednesday 7 December 2022
approx. public attendance 100 partners 21

Montrose Cost of Living Road Show:

Date – Tuesday 17 January 2023
Approx. public attendance 60, partners 21

Newtyle Cost of Living Road Show:

Date – Wednesday 1 February 2023

Kirriemuir Cost of Living Road Show:

Date – Tuesday 7 February 2023

Qualitative feedback from Cost of Living Roadshows

- An elderly male who had been widowed in the last couple of years had no idea what he was entitled to and was finding things much harder with rising energy and food bills. He was extremely grateful to speak to the people from Social Security Scotland who were able to advise and support him.
- One mum came with her young (primary aged) son. She was also worried about rising costs and was very keen to educate her son on how to cook on a budget. She was given a slow cooker and was over the moon with this. Both her and her son were excited to cook using the slow cooker and took away recipes and took pictures of recipes too.
- One family with 5 living at home were worried about coping with increasing costs as both parents were unemployed and in receipt of benefits. They were not confident cooking and had low level literacy abilities (mum is a known adult learner). They were given a slow cooker along with recipes and were really appreciative of this. They also spoke with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service about the new smoke detectors, social supermarket (they had never heard of them before) and also took away a free recipe bag, they also took some of the period poverty products.
- A large extended family were struggling with benefits and rising costs (especially with energy). They spoke with SCARF, the Health Promotion team about the stop smoking initiative, Social Supermarket (they hadn't heard of them either, they also took some period products (they hadn't heard of the reusable products before) and spoke to the family nurture team.
- One single male (aged 47) who had finished a work placement which had ended but who was still volunteering. He was keen to find work and spoke with Remploy and also with Social

Security Scotland regarding benefit entitlement. He also took a slow cooker and was very excited to try new recipes using it. He also took a food bag from Social Supermarket.

- Mother and daughter (mum is a single parent and self-employed), finding money very tight at the moment. They also received a slow cooker and thought this would be a great help in reducing energy use and costs when cooking.
- Spoke with some elderly females (aged 70+) they had just come along to find out more and see what support was on offer. One of the females uses a slow cooker but was surprised at the number of new recipes she found and that more recipes could be found on the internet and via Facebook. The other female had a slow cooker but never used it. She was surprised when she found out how much cheaper it would be to use compared to her oven and took away some recipes to try at home.
- I spoke to another mum who had a young child who is autistic. She came out of curiosity and to see what help is out there. She also received a slow cooker and stayed to chat for quite a while.
- The people I spoke to were very appreciative for the tea/coffee/hot chocolate, soup and toasties on offer. Many people also commented on how nice it was to be able to speak to other people.

Headteacher survey and data information

	April 2022 Data -What do you believe to be the main cause of this financial hardship?	December 2022 What do you believe to be the main cause of this financial hardship?
Andover Primary School	Change in Universal Credits Increase in food and fuel costs Mental Health Loss of jobs/ income	Increasing food and fuel costs. We are aware that many of our families have electric storage heaters which are causing a concern for families heating their homes. We also support a number of families who are at home all day and are concerned about putting heating on. These families also have young children at home during the day.
Arbroath High School	No employment, low wages, increase in the standard of living.	Families who are not in work or in poorly paid jobs who cannot cope with the increased cost of living.
Birkhill Primary School	Cost of living crisis- fuel price increase, rising interest rates Unemployment	Feedback has shown that the cost of living crisis is having significant impact on a number of families
Borrowfield Primary School	Split families, unemployment, cost of living, Covid	Single parent families, low income or no job, multiple children. Struggling with increased cost of living.
Brechin High School	Poverty in the community - two postcodes are SIMD 2. Lasting impact of job losses associated with the pandemic. Increased cost of living is increasing poverty across the community.	Families are having to make increasingly difficult choices between putting healthy food on the table and heating their homes. Many of our families are in low paid jobs and the hike in fuel bills, coupled with the sky-high inflation rates means they are finding life really challenging at the moment. Food is so much more expensive as is petrol and they are really struggling. Any money we receive will be used to help families through this really difficult time.
Carnoustie High School	For each young person/family, there is an individual story but in general they are families who have struggled for some time and increasing cost of living has added to their burden. The submission is for around 12 young people over 8 families.	Cost of Living crisis has exacerbated the situation. Rising inflation and energy costs.
Edzell Primary School	Single parent families on low income	Fuel poverty due to rising cost of oil used in rural locations.

Friockheim Primary School	Lack of employment due to Covid and rising cost of living.	Cost of living crisis.
Grange Primary School	Low income and rising costs of living	Increased cost of living especially food stuffs and heating. For our community this means families are struggling to buy fresh produce such as fruit and vegetables whilst trying to find monies for necessities such as bread, milk and pasta can be challenging.
Inverbrothock Primary	Insufficient benefit + rising cost of living	Rising food costs and rising energy costs
Isla Primary School	Lack of employment opportunities post-COVID in this rural location with a dispersed population	We have three families who would be keen to gain support with the above. One family has shared that they are struggling with heating their children's bedrooms. Support was required to support families with the expense of Christmas.
Liff Primary School	Redundancies and the increase in cost of living	Redundancies during the pandemic Current cost of living crisis
Lochside Primary School	Rising cost of living, hidden poverty	The increased cost of living can put working families in financial hardship. We have become aware that some families may not have internet access or phone credits at various points, which can limit their ability to access iPAY, contact the school in general or in an emergency, learning opportunities for their children etc. Families with children who have additional or complex needs can be more vulnerable due to transport costs and the family's ability to access supports, have adequate heating and provide for their family e.g. children with restricted eating, particular clothing needs, access to appropriate activities etc. Our SMID data does not match our school clothing grant and FSMs data. Families who receive these benefits are evenly spaced in every part of SMID areas. Happy to share this picture.

Monikie Primary School	cost of living	Hidden poverty, stigma around accessing support
	Unemployment Rising energy costs General rising cost of living Family circumstances - split families, single carers	
Murroes Primary	Low paid jobs, single parent families, families on benefit	
Rosemount	unemployment, rise in cost of living	rising costs of food and fuel loss of employment / reduction in hours
Southesk Primary School	Increased cost of living particularly with increased food costs. Increased energy bills with some families choosing between heating and eating. Also the cost of making hot meals if they don't have gas and or electric in their meter then they are unable to make hot food for the family. Things will be even more challenging now that the energy cap has been lifted, some families were already not able to pay all the bills. Some families have had to reduce hours due to children having Covid-19 and therefore their wages are cut drastically.	Pressure of increased bills, unemployment, mental health issues
Strathmore	Rising food and energy costs.	Cost of living crisis
Tannadice Primary School	Children being part of a large family and earning just more than the threshold for financial support. Low income and transport costs.	Long term family illness which has caused both parents to be unable to work. The rising cost of oil required to heat properties in rural areas.
Warddykes Primary School	Our school is in the top 3 most deprived area with the highest level of poverty in the whole of Angus. We are also the school for the Syrian community. Our children are in need and do not have regular meals, appropriate clothing and shoes.	Warddykes Primary School was deemed as one of the top 3 schools in the whole of Angus with the highest level of poverty and deprivation. We are also the designated school for the Syrian community who we support daily. Children and families use our foodbank and clothing bank daily and we struggle to keep up with the high demand. The cost of living increase is also having a massive impact on our families so more families are using our breakfast club, free school meals, foodbank, clothing bank and accessing winter jackets and shoes from the school.

Whitehills Primary School	Parents who have learning challenges themselves, lack of job prospects, health conditions so unable to work, family members with disabilities, children with challenging behaviour and require extra care/resources/support, parents with no family support network,	Increased costs of living - heating/electric/gas/petrol/diesel/food/accommodation/mortgages etc Loss of a parent in the household Loss of occupation/job security due to ill health Mental health concerns in the family - unable to work Ill health due to the impact of Covid
Woodlands	Impact of COVID, war in Ukraine, increased cost of living eg fuel/energy and food bills and mental health difficulties.	Continued COVID impact on job loss and hours worked as well as increased cost of living including food and fuel costs.



Appendix 3

Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal:

Cost of Living Systems and Actions. This is a reflective summary of all actions undertaken 2022-2023 by the council and our partners to address the impact the cost of living crisis is having on the residents of Angus. This includes the work of council services such as the Vibrant Communities team and Welfare Rights, the roadshows/information sessions, funding and, signposting people to sources of support.

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics No

(iii) It is for information only Yes

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year Yes

(v) It is technical Yes

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service:

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

(iv)Is it a new proposal? Yes/No Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? Yes/No Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees Yes/No

Job Applicants Yes/No

Service users Yes/No

Members of the public Yes/No

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils.

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? Yes/No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact

Disability

Impact

Gender reassignment

Impact

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact

Religion or Belief

Impact

Sex

Impact

Sexual orientation

Impact

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

A full EAI is not required as this is a reflective information report for committee. However, all equality issues have been considered in projects such as the Cost of Living Roadshows, and the LACER fund and these will be monitored. A full EIA will be completed for any additional or future projects.

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Audrey Michie, Vibrant Communities 18/01/2023

Reviewed by: Doreen Phillips, Snr Practitioner (Equalities) 18/1/2023

Approved by: M Armstrong, Deputy Chief Executive 18/1/2023

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
