

Waverley Borough Council

Report to: Executive

Date: 6 June 2023

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director: Community Wellbeing

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Report Status: Open

Report of the Cost of Living Executive Working Group

1. Executive Summary

This report sets out the work of the Cost of Living Executive Working Group which has met four times since September 2022 and details the response to the cost of living crisis by the council and other partner organisations. The work of the Group is reflected in a number of themes and includes evidence from key partners and the charity and voluntary sectors. Data and performance indicators are also provided to illustrate the impact of the crisis on residents and those working in the borough.

2. Recommendation to Executive

That the Executive:

- 2.1. approves the report of the Cost of Living Executive Working Group; and

2.2. agrees to re-establish the Cost of Living Executive Working Group (CoLEWG) in order for it continue its work during 2023/24.

3. Reason(s) for Recommendation:

3.1. To continue to ensure that the effects of the cost of living crisis are well understood by the council and action is taken to alleviate the impact where possible.

4. Exemption from publication

4.1. No

5. Purpose of Report

5.1. The report details the work of the Group and the information gathered by the CoLEWG since September 2022 and recommends that the work be continued.

6. Strategic Priorities

6.1. The work of the CoLEWG supports the vision of the council, *'that Waverley will be environmentally, economically and financially sustainable with healthy, inclusive communities and housing available for all who need it.'*

7. Background

7.1. The CoLEWG was set up in September 2022 to understand the impact of the cost of living crisis on people living and working in Waverley and to identify ways the council can help to mitigate this impact. The Group was chaired by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Paul Follows, and he was joined by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Peter Clark, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Cllr Mark Merryweather, the Co-Portfolio Holders for Housing (Delivery) and Housing (Operations) Cllrs Paul Rivers and Nick Palmer and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development, Cllr Liz Townsend. All other Executive members were invited. To date the Group has met four times.

7.2. The general objectives of the CoLEWG, from its Terms of Reference (annexe 1) were as follows:

- Investigate the cost-of-living crisis to inform our members and residents of its aspects and impacts.
- Explore and implement mitigation within our direct remit and lobby those beyond it.
- Coordinate, communicate and expand existing mitigation.
- Maintain oversight of the implementation of any local or national government led schemes.

8. Themes of work

8.1. The following themes were explored across the four CoLEWG meetings. A summary of the discussion at the meetings and further research is laid out below.

8.2. Support for community

Local cost of living statistics were collected to show the context of the situation for Waverley residents (annexe 2). These formed the basis for the CoLEWG indicators (annexe 3), which were then reported to the Group at each meeting. The indicators formed the basis of actions and talking points for the Group although it was recognised that some of the information lagged behind the impact of the crisis. The indicators showed that the percentage of Waverley households in fuel poverty (7.3%) was higher than the rest of Surrey (6.9%) but was below the south east region in general (8.6%). Electricity and gas consumption per household was much higher in Waverley than the rest of the south east. Whilst unemployment rates in the borough were generally low and out of work claimants were also much lower than elsewhere in the south east, the general affluence of Waverley masks the communities where real poverty exists and is having an impact on individuals and households. This can be seen from the evidence given by the representatives of the Foodbanks, Community Stores and Fridge. There were increases in the numbers of people and households on Universal Credit during the summer and autumn 2022 but it is unclear whether this could be partly due to the continuing roll out of the full UC service. Further evidence of the impact on residents came from Citizens Advice Waverley and this is detailed below.

8.3. Citizens Advice Waverley

- 8.3.1. Citizens Advice Waverley (CAW) offer a range of free, impartial and confidential advice, offering help with crisis support, debt relief and fuel poverty.
- 8.3.2. CAW played an important role throughout the winter of 2022, when the CoL crisis pressures were rising, helping people with their energy and household bills through a referral process. The Chief Executive of CAW informed the group at their first meeting in September that they were already seeing an increase in people approaching CAW services, contacting the advice line, and expected this surge to continue.
- 8.3.3. At the CoLEWG meeting in January 2023, statistics were shared on the volume of CoL enquiries CAW received between October – December 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. CoL enquiries rose by 47% in this period, from 441 to 648. These enquiries can be broken down into the top 5 topics in table 1.

Issue	% change from last 3 months last year
Energy	+93%
Council tax reduction	+69%
Charitable support & Food Banks	+64%
Personal independence payment	+53%
Local authority housing	+38%

Table 1: shows the % change in the top 5 topics of CoL enquiries to CAW between October – December 2022, compared with the same period in 2021.

- 8.3.4. Enquiries about energy increased the most in this time period, reflecting the energy and fuel crisis towards the end of 2022. There were also large increases in enquiries about charitable support and council tax reductions. This mirrors the increases in demand that foodbanks and community stores in Waverley experienced in 2022 and the increased pressures seen on front-line staff at Waverley.
- 8.3.5. At the CoLEWG meeting in March 2023, updated statistics on the above were shared. They show between January – March 2023 compared to the same period in 2022, that CoL enquiries increased overall by 19%, lower than the increase in the previous period. Table 2 shows the updated statistics for the changes in specific CoL enquiries.

Issue	% change from last 3 months last year
Local authority housing	+100%
Personal independence payment	+62%
Council tax reduction	+42%
Energy	+16%
Charitable support & Food Banks	-3%

8.3.6. Enquiries about local authority housing saw the largest increase. There was also an increase in queries about Personal Independence Payments and a report from the Surrey Coalition for Disabled People detailed later in this report starkly illustrated the lived experience of many people with a disability coping with poverty.

8.3.7. CAW also reported a 217% increase, from the current period compared to the previous period, in clients with council tax arrears issues.

8.4. Warm hubs

8.4.1. Support for the community was a key objective of the CoLEWG and the Group were keen to ensure safe and warm spaces were available for residents during the winter months.

8.4.2. High energy prices meant that some vulnerable residents were reluctant to heat their homes. Information about warm hubs and their locations was collected by the Waverley Community Services Team and listed on Waverley's website and social media, Surrey County Council's (SCC) website, promoted at food banks and Towns and Parish Clerks were made aware of where they could find this information.

8.4.3. The Community Services Team at Waverley also worked with the Community Partnerships and Engagement Team at SCC to jointly contact warm hubs, offering support where necessary.

8.5. Food banks and community stores

- 8.5.1. The Community Services Team, worked closely with those organisations who run foodbanks and community stores and fridges across the borough, to help with funding where necessary. Surrey CC are responsible for the primary source of funding for foodbanks but Waverley received funding through Tranche 3 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) and provided support for community stores and foodbanks when needed. Details of this funding can be found in table 3, in the HSF section of this report.
- 8.5.2. Representatives of foodbanks and community stores in Waverley attended the CoLEWG meeting in January to share their experiences of increased demands towards the end of 2022. The Group heard that Hale Community Fridge and Cupboard (HCFC) ,for example, ran out of food for the first time in the run up to Christmas.
- 8.5.3. At the meeting, Waverley’s Community Services Team reinforced the message that help was available from Waverley to provide additional support for the foodbanks and community fridges and that no Waverley resident should be without food. There was also discussion about whether further help could be provided to buy school uniforms and other essential items.

8.6. Financial support

8.6.1. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

This is a payment that the council can consider awarding if there is a gap between the amount of rent a resident has to pay and the amount of housing benefit or Local Housing Allowance or Universal Credit they receive, for whatever reason. The amount paid in DHP for the period 1 April 2022 to 1 April 2023 was £111,399 to 154 recipients.

8.6.2. Housing Benefit

This can help residents with rent payment if eligible and on a low income or not working.

8.6.3. Council Tax Energy Rebate

In February 2022 the Chancellor announced that some households would be eligible to receive a rebate to help with their energy bills. The scheme gave most people paying Council Tax living in properties

in bands A, B, C and D a one-off £150 payment. 26,324 households have received this payment in Waverley, totalling £3,948,600.

8.6.4. Safe and Warm Grant

This is a discretionary grant that the council offer in certain circumstances for small, but essential, works to improve the energy efficiency or safety of a home.

During 2022/23 there was a slight increase in the number of enquiries received but the number of grants awarded reduced.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Awarded	24	21	14
Enquiries	31	49	52

8.6.5. £2 bus fare cap

The Government introduced a £2 fare cap on single bus tickets which started 1st January 2023 and was initially in place until 31st March 2023. Nationally 130 bus operators participated in the scheme; in Waverley, significant participating operators were Compass Travel and Stagecoach South. The bus fare cap scheme was introduced to help with the rising cost of living, lowering daily expenditure. The Department for Transport (DfT) announced that this price cap would save passengers 30% of the price each time they travel, with the average single local bus ticket costing £2.80 before the cap was introduced. The Government have now announced plans to continue the capped single bus fares outside of London until the end of June.

Hoppa, Waverley's community transport provider, are also offering their fares at £2 for a single bus ticket, for their Dial-a-ride (DAR) services. This reduced fare is a cost to Hoppa as they are not supported by the government's financial re-imburement scheme. Hoppa have recorded an upturn in passengers across the three DAR services in Waverley from January 2022-2023, as seen in in Table 3.

	January 2022 No. of pass	January 2023 No. of pass	% increase
Godalming DAR	111	141	+27%
Haslemere DAR	70	124	+77%
Cranleigh DAR	130	169	+30%

8.7. Fuel poverty

The Governmental Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy provide annual data on sub-regional fuel poverty. The most recent data is from 2021, shown below, and indicates that fuel poverty in Waverley is higher than the Surrey average. However, the data does not reflect the impact of the energy and fuel crisis and the war in Ukraine in 2022.

Region	% of households in fuel poverty	
	2020	2021
Waverley	7.3	8.3
Guildford	7.9	8.1
Surrey	6.9	7.3
England	13.2	13.1

8.8. Energy crisis

As seen at 8.3.3, enquiries to CAW about energy issues increased the most. The government has laid out an Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) which will help ease the energy crisis pressures for residents.

The EPG protects customers from increases in energy costs by limiting the amount suppliers can charge per unit of energy used. This has been further extended and will stay at its current level from April to the end of June 2023. It is estimated that the EPG is worth £160 in total for a typical household.

8.9. Housing and Housing Associations

8.9.1 The Waverley Housing Service have made referrals to the Household Support Fund and made direct awards through the Rent and Home Choice Team. All customer facing officers were made aware of the

support available to signpost tenants accordingly and details were published online and in the tenants newsletter.

8.9.2 The HRA Hardship Fund was proactively used to support 93 tenants in the least energy efficient homes with a £200 rent credit and a further 19 tenants were supported with food vouchers and essentials eg beds and carpets.

8.9.3 The Housing Delivery and Communities Team have contacted five Housing Associations with over 100 homes in the borough, to collect data on the take up of support and the impact of the CoL crisis on tenants. Relevant information from three of the Housing Associations can be found in the table below.

HA	No of homes	Website advice	Data on HA support	Notes
VIVID	441	Cost of living crisis information (vividhomes.co.uk)	Total 41 cases (22 financial cases, 19 employment and training)	Jan 22 – Feb 23, Waverley: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped a customer write off debt worth £27,448. Supported 21 customers for a financial income gain of £123,507. 19 customers supported by our Employment & Training team, including 9 job starts and 5 training courses completed.
MTVH	226	Get help with the cost of living - Metropolitan Thames Valley (mtvh.co.uk)	Not available	No specific data relating to Waverley BC was available but a number of initiatives were made available to help residents not only sustain their tenancies but also

				be able to afford some of the most essential needs. Information included food provision, digital support and energy efficiency.
Mount Green (MG)	110	Welfare and Benefits - Mount Green Housing Association Ltd	3 accessed MG social fund	3 of MG's Waverley residents have accessed Waverley's cost of living support through their welfare benefits officer referral. Very highly regarded by their WBO. 3 Waverley residents have accessed MG's internal social fund. Take up of WBC social fund across MG stock has been lower than we would have hoped. However, MG will continue to offer this support in 2023/24. Greatest issues with residents is the cost of energy and food. MG have 50 active arrears cases in Waverley. 3 have been served NOSP, 4 are at pre-notice (stage 3 or arrears process). 6 arrears cases are with Shared Owners/ leaseholders.

9. Disability

- 9.1. The Surrey Coalition of Disabled people carried out a survey last autumn to collect information about the impact of the CoL crisis on people with a disability. The report, 'The true cost' of the CoL Crisis for

disabled people, gave a disturbing account of lived experiences and revealed that:

- 97% of disabled people (that were in the Surrey Coalition for Disabled People) said the CoL had impacted them.
- 76% had not turned their heating on.
- 45% had gone without food.
- 43% were no longer able to meet the additional costs for a person with a disability.

9.2. The report outlines the following main financial issues:

- Bills (electricity, gas and fuel).
- Food.
- Transport.
- Care costs.

9.3. The report highlighted that 62% of members had not made use of community fridges, warm hubs and foodbanks. This raised the concern that local services were not fully accessible for disabled people.

9.4. The recommendations for local authorities were:

- Providing information and signposting.
- Campaigning.
- Providing Direct Funding.
- Providing Technical Support, devices and training.
- Develop Partnerships with other organisations.
- Education.
- Less bureaucratic referral process for food banks.
- Assist with the recruitment of volunteers who can deliver food from foodbanks to those unable to leave their homes.

9.5. Actions were taken at the March meeting to ensure there was more publicity aimed at people with a disability, including support available from the HSF and Food Banks, Stores and Fridges. The next HSF tranche will also focus support on people with a disability.

10. Household Support Fund

10.1. Central government allocates the HSF to Surrey CC, who then allocate a proportion to boroughs and districts, to provide households with

payments to help with essentials such as food, utilities and clothing. Residents can apply to an open application scheme based on need, all applications are assessed in accordance with government and local guidelines. There was an initial delay in receiving funds from SCC for distribution whilst the process was agreed. The HSF has had three tranches by March 2023 and is administered at Waverley by the Community Services Team.

10.2. Throughout the HSF scheme the majority of funding has been spent on supporting residents through the open application scheme. Residents have been able to apply for funds directly to the council or to Godalming Rotary (during tranche 1), Haslemere Town Council or Farnham Town Council.

10.3. Waverley has funded key local not-for-profit organisations to support them in reaching local communities and this approach has worked very well. The number of households in Waverley the HSF has helped, by individual tranche, can be seen in the tables below.

10.4. Total support provided to households in Waverley:

Tranche 1 – 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Households with children	Households without children	Total
Spend (£)	£140,871	£73,321	£214,192
Number of households helped	1,125	743	1,868

	Energy and water	Food	Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider essentials	Housing costs	Total
Spend (£)	£48,868	£61,932	£311	£68,616	£34,465	£214,192

Tranche 2 – 1 April to 30 September 2022

	Households with children	Households with pensioners	Other households	Total
Spend (£)	£41,269	£136,883	£13,053	£191,205
Number of households helped	107	1,686	43	1,836

	Energy and water	Food	Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider essentials	Housing costs	Total
Spend (£)	£152,169	£19,575	0	£18,961	£500	£191,205

Tranche 3 – 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Households with children	Households with pensioners	Households with a disabled person	Other households	Total
Spend (£)	£28,811	£4,805	£12,896	£11,596	£58,108
Number of households helped	130	58	50	74	312

	Energy and water	Food	Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider essentials	Housing costs	Total
Spend (£)	£17,170	£21,404	£5,836	£10,698	0	£55,108

10.5. From Tranche 1 it was apparent that the most demand for support in Waverley was from families and individuals receiving Universal Credit. However, Tranche 2 required at least 1/3 of the allocated fund to go to pensioners. The Community Team has reported that the HSF is having a huge positive impact on households in Waverley. The

Community Team are currently awaiting information regarding funding beyond 31 March 2023.

- 10.6. The third party organisations that Waverley’s HSF has been allocated to, based on their requirements, can be seen in the table below.

Organisation	Total funding awarded to date
Haslemere Town Council (open application scheme)	£60,000
Farnham Town Council (open application scheme within the Farnham Support Fund)	£70,000
Godalming Rotary (open application scheme supporting Cranleigh, Godalming and Waverley villages residents)	£15,000
Hale Community Cupboard	£5,000
Godalming Community Store	£8,000
Farnham Hygiene Bank	£10,000
South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (matched by Guildford Borough Council)	£5,000
3 Counties Money Advice	£20,000
Citizens Advice (to provide food vouchers to people)	£30,000

11. Communicating and signposting residents to support

11.1. Signposting

The importance of a Communications plan to deliver messages of help and support to residents was highlighted in the first CoLEWG meeting. Waverley’s Communications Team launched a [‘Cost of Living’](#) hub on the website and used social media for key messaging. Posts were made through the main Waverley channels – including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Next Door, including the BusinessWaverley channel with messages targeting different groups. However, they were also involved with the local press to promote key events like the launch of the website and created posters and flyers to be made

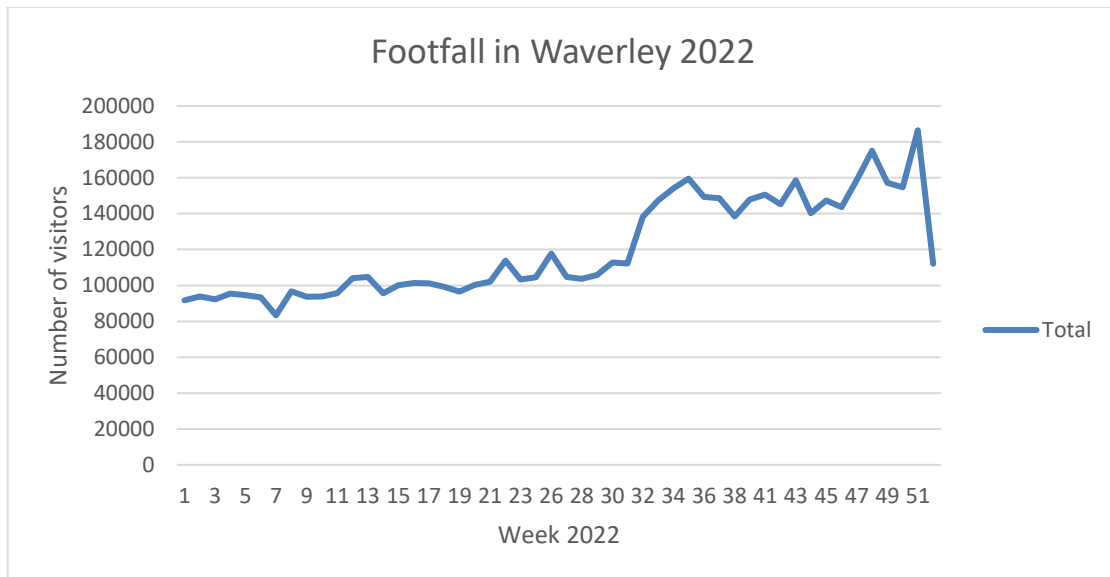
available to partners across Waverley, including public libraries, community organisations and third sector organisations.

11.2. Waverley website

The Waverley Borough Council website has been crucial to the signposting of information and support for the Cost of Living Crisis. It was promoted by a banner on the home page and information and resources were divided into sections for easier navigation to specific information. Regular updates have been made to the site, for individual items when necessary. On the Cost of Living page on the Waverley website there is not only information on support being offered to residents but also guidance on support that other organisations and charities are offering. For example, Surrey CC's schemes, the Fuel Bank Foundation and national government schemes.

12. Businesses and economy

- 12.1. The local economy has been affected by the CoL crisis, due to falls in footfall and rising utility costs. This has resulted in inevitable business closures.
- 12.2. The South East Small Business Index by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is a good indication of the challenges that businesses in Waverley may have encountered recently. Waverley is characterised by small to medium sized enterprises, in 2021 92% of businesses in Waverley were of less than 10 employees. The South East Small Business Index for Q3 in 2022 was -28 and in Q4 in 2022 it was -39. This indicates that confidence levels in small businesses in the South East are very low and indicative that lots of businesses in Waverley may be struggling in the current climate.
- 12.3. The pressures businesses in Waverley are feeling due to the CoL crisis can be shown through the fluctuations in footfall across Waverley in 2022. Figure 2 shows that especially towards the end of 2022 there were huge fluctuations in footfall across Waverley. This shows instability for businesses, leading to a lack of confidence, reflected in the Small Business Index.



12.4. The Economic Development Team have launched a collaboration with IncuHive, business mentors and start-up specialists, to offer free advice and bespoke guidance to local businesses, including helping them access funding and grants. Other opportunities of support for local businesses include a free networking event organised in December 2022, to discuss the CoL crisis and other big issues facing local businesses.

12.5. A 'Waverley Business News' email is sent out monthly to its subscribers (4800). These newsletters have been used as another source of government support advice, on budgeting and financial planning. The Economic Development Team have seen good engagement and a high clickthrough rate for the links to the government support by subscribers.

12.6. Waverley funded £1500 to each of the four main settlements in the borough to arrange events and activities throughout the winter of 2022, with the aim of increasing footfall on high streets. This project included "snow windows" in 30 businesses in Farnham, a window trail in Haslemere and events support for Godalming. Alongside this, the team worked with car parks to offer free parking from 3pm across these months.

12.7. Waverley is also supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) in Cranleigh, Farnham and Godalming as part of its Economic Development Strategy and corporate priorities. The BIDs aim to

generate additional investment for focused activities to support retail and other businesses in high streets.

13. Effects of CoL crisis on the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)

13.1. Surrey Community Action undertook a survey in autumn 2022 on ‘the impact of the current Economic Challenges Facing Surrey’s VCFS’. The survey was important in highlighting pressures on the VCFS and differences between the issues that smaller and larger organisations are facing.

13.2. Waverley’s VCFS relies heavily on public and statutory fundraising, with less disposable income as a result of the CoL crisis. However with the quality of life reducing from the CoL crisis, the demand for the services the VCFS provides is rising. The survey by Surrey Community action found that:

- 85% organisations who employ staff were facing recruitment and retention challenges.
- Around 50% of respondents were concerned about rising energy and fuel costs, with larger organisations being more concerned due to them having higher/more running costs.
- Those on fixed rate energy bills were concerned about when those deals would run out.
- 2/3rds of larger organisation were concerned about non-fuel and non-salary price rises – things like repairs, maintenance, vehicle purchase costs, specialist training costs and safety measure costs.
- Organisations might be able to survive but they might have to do so at the expense of services, impacting the people they support.
- Around 20% of respondents stated that financial pressures to participants will influence their ability to access support, e.g. being less able to afford fees or facing increased travel costs.

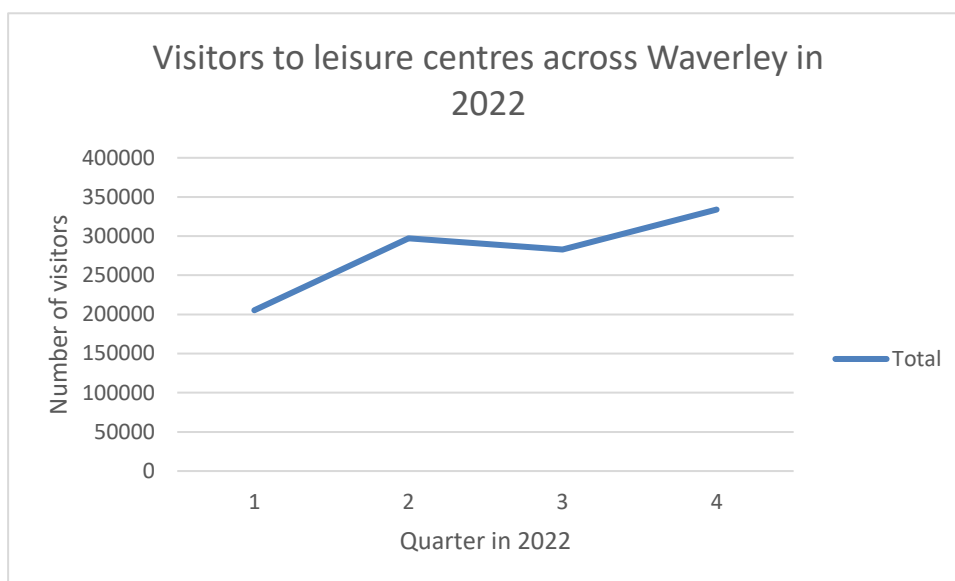
13.3. The survey found that respondents were mostly facing the same challenges, however there were differences when it came down to the size of organisations. Larger organisations faced the heavier pressures of energy and fuel costs, accommodation costs, due to having premises to manage and using pool or fleet vehicles. Smaller organisations were more worried about the impact of the CoL crisis on home working staff and volunteers. Rising costs were also a concern

for larger organisations, with two thirds of larger organisations worrying about non-fuel and non-salary price rises, whereas this tended to be less of a worry for smaller organisations as they were likely to spend a smaller amount on goods. In terms of service delivery, smaller organisations have been less heavily impacted, with only 1/20 expecting to have to reduce or stop any of their services whereas a quarter of larger organisations expected that one or more services might need to close.

- 13.4. Surrey Community Action's survey summarised work that local government can be doing to help the VCFS, as:
- Working with VCFS organisations locally to understand the pressures they are under and to factor those into action plans and support packages.
 - Consider the VCFS as equal to businesses and vital sector when offering support.
 - Working closely with VCFS to deliver meaningful support, directly and with minimal bureaucracy.

14. Impact on the council

- 14.1. It was apparent from the initial CoLEWG meeting in September 2022 that an uncertain environment was likely to result in financial and service delivery challenges to the council. The council was likely to experience rising demands for support at the same time as reduced income and rising costs of energy and materials affected major projects and contracts. The CoLEWG considered how the council could use resources efficiently to support the most vulnerable in the community.
- 14.2. Front-line teams at Waverley, such as the Revenues and Benefits team, were dealing with a higher numbers of calls, making demand harder to manage. In addition, the council was receiving lower income from car parks and planning application fees and increases in utility costs.
- 14.3. Leisure centres were massively impacted by covid but saw a steady rise in visitors during 2022. At the moment it is unclear what impact the CoL crisis has had on the number of visitors to leisure centres and therefore the health implications for residents.



15. Consultations

15.1 Engagement with local support organisations has been integral to the work of the Group and feedback is included in the report.

16. Key Risks

16.1. Key risk would be to do nothing and not to respond to the needs of residents.

17. Financial Implications

17.1. There are no direct financial implications from this report. The impact of the cost of living on our residents and local businesses may indirectly impact the council's finances through the support provided across many Council services and reduced incomes.

17.2. Some financial support has been provided through additional Government grant funded schemes as detailed above.

18. Legal Implications

18.1. There are no substantive legal implications from this report. The Executive are empowered to establish working groups to consider and respond to situations and use this to develop and support their use of the powers and functions of the Council. Substantive decision making

on areas of work would need to be considered in relation to the legal and governance requirements of the individual proposals.

19. Human Resource Implications

19.1. The paper outlines the challenge the Council will face when having to provide additional support on Cost of Living initiatives against its own financial challenges which could impact on staffing budgets. At this stage it looks like the decision making will be around re-allocating existing resource within the current teams, but this will need to be closely monitored; any cases for additional staffing would need to have financial approval and a business case put forward to go to Corporate Management Board.

20. Equality and Diversity Implications

20.1. Consideration of the impact on protected characteristic groups, including groups on low incomes and carers is fundamental to the work of the Group and specific implications are evidenced in the report.

20.2. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

21. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

21.1. There are no immediate climate change or sustainability implications.

22. Summary of Options

22.1. To continue the work of the group.

23. Conclusion

23.1. The Working Group have undertaken valuable engagement with partner organisations and the voluntary and charitable sectors in order to understand the impact of the cost of living crisis on residents and those working in the borough. The impact has been particularly heavy on those on low incomes, people with a disability and vulnerable groups. In order to measure, and to understand the scale of the impact, a number of metrics have been identified. These will

continue to be collected on a regular basis. There are further areas of work that the Group wish to explore and therefore the recommendation is for the Group to continue to meet until the end of the year.

24. Background Papers

24.1. There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D9(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

25. Annexes:

25.1. Annexe 1 – Cost of Living Working Group Terms or Reference.

25.2. Annexe 2 - Local Cost of Living statistics – metrics which show the effects of the Cost of Living Crisis on residents in Waverley.

25.3. Annexe 3 – Cost of Living Working Group indicators (26/01/23 meeting) – these metrics were taken from the local CoL statistics, as areas where metrics need to be monitored and action taken to mitigate.