

ITEM No ...5.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 22 AUGUST 2022

REPORT ON: FUEL WELL DUNDEE 3

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 204-2022

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on Fuel Well Dundee 3

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- Note the roll out programme of Fuel Well Dundee (FWD) 3 considering the cost of living crisis and how a holistic approach has been adopted to assist as many Dundee Households as possible.
- Allocate £260K of the £420K held in contingency to support a second phase allowing new customers to apply to FWD3.
- Allocate remaining £160K of contingency funding to support food and fuel in light of demand or new pressures and delegate the Chief Executive authority to take the necessary steps to implement any future support schemes.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 £800K allocated from the Scottish Government Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Funding (LACER) (Article VIII of minute of Policy and Resources Committee of 25 April 2022 refers).

3.2 £260K from the £420K held in contingency.

3.3 £160k contingency funding delegated to the Chief Executive to agree support initiatives for emerging food or fuel demands.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Fuel poverty and increased living costs have again been highlighted as a concern for Dundee households and remains a priority for the Dundee Fighting for Fairness Commissioners. Energy bills have gone up for all households across Scotland since the energy price cap was increased on 1st April 2022.

4.2 The initial Fuel Well Dundee Scheme in 20/21 managed to reach 2700 households across Dundee and provided £295,000 to assist with fuel costs. In 21/22 Fuel well Dundee 2 paid out a total of £507,120 to support 4,088 households along with supporting a further 4,751 households at a cost of £267,500 who had attained the age of State Pension Credit.

4.3 Fuel Well Dundee 3 has £800k committed to support households with rising energy costs in 2022/23.

4.4 It is recognised that Fuel Well Dundee 3 payments will not solve the fuel cost issues but aims to provide some immediate help whilst simultaneously offering a full suite of more sustainable

supports, designed to improve household finances in the longer term. Access to welfare benefits, energy, employability, food support and debt advice are the principal tools used to achieve this. Referrals to other support agencies will be made as appropriate.

- 4.5 Fuel Well Dundee 3 will continue the successful partnership with SCARF Energy Advice which resulted in over £200,000 worth of energy efficiency measures installed. This partnership working will be extended to include Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau to maximise capacity.
- 4.6 In utilising the £800K allocated from the Scottish Government LACER funding the following payments will be made during August 22.
- £50 payment to single households of state retirement age in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (approx. 4,406)
 - £100 payment to couple households of state pension credit age in receipt of Council Tax Reduction. (approx. 685)
 - £100 payment to households who received a Fuel Well 2 payment and are still eligible (Approx. 1800))
 - £150 payment to households with children who received a Fuel well 2 payment and are still eligible (2290)
- 4.7 This will mean payments to approx. 9181 households in Dundee at a time of increasing fuel costs utilising all £800K currently allocated.
- 4.8 Fuel Well Dundee 3 will launch and be publicised for new households who are in receipt of a means tested benefit and have not yet received a payment.
- 4.9 Discretionary awards to be made to those households just above the means tested benefit entitlement and or where other factors are at play e.g. significant indebtedness, high energy usage costs, inefficient heating/insulation.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of / mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: 3 AUGUST 2022

Appendix 1: Fuel Well 3 IIA

IIA Tool – Word Version for Use by Scoping Groups and Stakeholders

This document replicates the fields found in the IIA Tool. Its purpose is to enable discussions on policy, service change, reports, etc. to be noted as part of the IIA process and enable the completion of the online tool to be more straightforward. This can be used by a scoping group of officers, or adapted for use in engagement with stakeholders and groups who will be affected by proposed changes.

Note that where a positive, negative or not known impact is selected, the online IIA Tool requires a narrative explanation of this. If there is No Impact identified, no narrative is required.

The IIA Guidance document can be found [here](#).

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Document Title	Fuel Well Dundee 3
Document Type	Policy
New / Existing Document?	New
Document Description	Explains the roll out of the Fuel Well Dundee (FWD) 3 programme.
Intended Outcome	Fuel Well Dundee 3 is committed to pay out £800K Scottish Government LACER funding during August 2022 to help support household with the rising energy costs in 2022/23, whilst continuing the successful partnership with SCARF Energy Advice which resulted in over £200,000 energy efficiencies being installed. Additional holistic outcomes tackling poverty and income inequality will follow from the programme activity.
Document Start Date	2 August 2022
Document End Date	
How will the proposal be monitored?	Through Firmstep/IT/Banking reports. Various outcomes related to Fuel Well Dundee 3 questions asked will be monitored over the lifetime of the programme.

Equality, Diversity & Human Rights

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Age	x				All households across all ages are able to apply in order to alleviate the cost of living crisis/household fuel costs. Special consideration has been made to meet those customers of pension age who cannot apply online by making direct payments to those customers in receipt of Council Tax Reduction
Disability	x				Disadvantage can often be concentrated among people have a disability. Fuel costs are generally higher for those with a long term condition.
Gender Reassignment		x			
Marriage & Civil Partnership		x			
Pregnancy & Maternity	x				Disadvantage can often be concentrated in lone parent groups. Higher payments are in place for customers with children.
Race / Ethnicity	x				Disadvantage can often be concentrated in ethnic minority groups who tend to have lower average household incomes. This group will benefit significantly from the programme.
Religion or Belief		x			
Sex	x				Based on previous fuel well programmes we expect higher numbers of women and female lone parents to benefit from the programme.
Sexual Orientation		x			

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?	No
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Fairness & Poverty

Geography

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns

Strathmartine (Ardler, St. Mary's & Kirkton)	X				The cost of living crisis is affecting all areas of the City and starting to impact on higher income groups as well as those on lower household incomes. Discretion on entitlement is incorporated into the programme criteria which allows for discretion in relation to those with incomes above benefit levels where other issues are present (e.g. indebtedness, long term conditions, inefficient heating systems/insulation)
Lochee (Lochee / Beechwood, Charleston & Menzieshill)	X				
Coldside (Hilltown, Fairmuir & Coldside)	X				
Maryfield (Stobswell & City Centre)	X				
North East (Whitfield, Fintry & Mill O'Mains)	X				
East End (Mid Craige, Linlathen & Douglas)	X				
The Ferry	X				
West End	x				

Household Group

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Looked After Children & Care Leavers	x				The programme is designed to improve socio-economic impacts of the cost of living crisis both by financial awards but also through holistic interventions and outcomes designed to improve household income on a longer term basis. This is achieved through tools such as income maximisation, debt counselling, energy efficiency advice which can increase household income and reduce expenditure. Households are assessed based on composition and individual entitlements available to each household group type.
Carers	x				As above
Lone Parent Families	x				As above
Single Female Households with Children	x				As above
Greater Number of Children and/or Young Children	x				As above
Pensioners – single / couple	x				As above
Unskilled Workers or Unemployed	x				As above

Serious & Enduring Mental Health Problems	x				As above
Homeless	x				As above
Drug and/or Alcohol Problems	x				As above
Offenders and Ex-Offenders	x				As above

Socio-Economic Disadvantage

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Employment Status	x				The programme is designed to improve socio-economic impacts of the cost of living crisis both by financial awards but also through holistic interventions and outcomes designed to improve household income on a longer term basis. This is achieved through tools such as income maximisation, debt counselling, energy efficiency advice which can increase household income and reduce expenditure. Households are assessed based on composition and individual entitlements available to each household group type.
Education & Skills	x				As above
Income	x				As above
Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare)	x				As above
Affordability and Accessibility of Services	x				As above
Fuel Poverty	x				At the heart of the programme is an assessment of the household's income, fuel expenditure, energy efficiency and knowledge of supports available (e.g. Warm Home Discount). Partnership with co-stakeholders SCARF and Dundee CAB will serve to maximise reach of supports available in the city to tackle fuel poverty.

Inequalities of Outcome

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Cost of Living / Poverty Premium	x				Income maximisation, debt advice and energy advice is offered as standard to all customers
Connectivity / Internet Access	x				Information on access to local venues included as standard
Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation	x				Income maximisation and benefit checks offered as standard to all customers
Employment Opportunities	x				Referrals to employability services offered as standard to all customers
Education	x				Assistance for students offered as standard in the application process
Health	x				Disabilities and long term conditions questions asked within the form to determine possible health and benefit supports available
Life Expectancy	x				Income maximisation can be a powerful tool to tackle health and income inequalities.
Mental Health	x				Disabilities and long term conditions questions asked within the form to determine possible health and benefit supports available
Overweight / Obesity	x				Disabilities and long term conditions questions asked within the form to determine possible health and benefit supports available
Child Health	x				Disabilities and long term conditions questions asked within the form to determine possible health and benefit supports available
Neighbourhood Satisfaction		x			
Transport	x				Income maximisation can assist with access to affordable transport options for customers.

Environment

Climate Change

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Mitigating Greenhouse Gases	X				Energy efficiency advice and support and measures made accessible by the programme will mitigate greenhouse gases and the effects of climate change
Adapting to the Effects of Climate Change	X				Energy efficiency advice and support and measures made accessible by the programme will mitigate greenhouse gases and the effects of climate change

Resource Use

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Energy Efficiency and Consumption	X				Energy efficiency advice and support and measures made accessible by the programme will mitigate greenhouse gases and the effects of climate change
Prevention, Reduction, Re-use, Recovery, or Recycling of Waste		x			
Sustainable Procurement		x			

Transport

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Accessible Transport Provision	X				Income maximisation can assist with access to affordable transport options for customers.
Sustainable Modes of Transport	x				As above

Natural Environment

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Air, Land and Water Quality		x			
Biodiversity		x			
Open and Green Spaces		x			

Built Environment

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Built Heritage		x			
Housing	x				Income maximisation and reduction of expenditure can assist with access to affordable housing options for customers.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Use the [SEA flowchart](#) to determine whether your proposal requires SEA.

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	(No further response needed)
It has been determined that the proposal will have no or minimal environmental effects. The reason(s) for this determination are set out in the following SEA pre-screening determination section	<i>SEA Pre-Screening Determination: Explain how you made the determination that the Plan, Programme or Strategy will have no or minimal negative environmental effect:</i>
Screening has determined that the proposal is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. The reason(s) for this determination are set out in the Screening Report, a copy of which will be available to view at www.dundee.gov.uk/cplanning/sea	<i>Need to insert the 'Summary of Environmental Effects' from your SEA screening report</i>
Screening has determined that the proposal is likely to have significant environmental effects and as a consequence an environmental assessment is necessary. A Scoping Report, which will determine the scope of the environmental assessment is being prepared for submission to the statutory Consultation Authorities for consideration	<i>Need to insert the 'Summary of Environmental Effects' from your SEA screening report</i>
Screening determined that the proposal was likely to have significant environmental effects and as a consequence an environmental assessment was necessary. An Environmental Report has been prepared for submission to the statutory Consultation Authorities together with a draft Plan, Programme or Strategy for consideration. A copy of the Environmental Report will be available to view at www.dundee.gov.uk/cplanning/sea	<i>Environmental Implications: Describe the implications of the proposal on the characteristics identified:</i> <i>Proposed Mitigating Actions: Describe any mitigating actions which you propose to take to overcome negative impacts or implications:</i>

Corporate Risk

	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Not Known	Explanation of Impact / Mitigations / Unknowns
Political Reputational Risk		x			
Economic / Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment		x			
Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients		x			
Technological / Business or Service Interruption		x			
Environmental		x			
Legal / Statutory Obligations		x			
Organisational / Staffing & Competence		x			

One of the three statements below will apply

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are 'business as normal' risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.	x	<i>(No further response needed)</i>
There are moderate levels of risk associated with the subject matter of this report. However, having undertaken a full analysis of the upside and downside risks there is a clear benefit in what is proposed and we are satisfied that adequate controls are available to mitigate the downside risks. The downside financial exposure to the Council is less than £xxx and this together with other areas of risk can be effectively managed.		<i>(No further response needed)</i>
There are considerable risks associated with the subject matter of this report. This is due either to a significant departure from the previous norm of Council activity, the nature of the proposals or the potential for substantial financial or other impact to be sustained. The report incorporates the potential for losses in excess of £xxx should the downside risk materialise and/or there is potential for the Council's decision to be challenged and for significant reputational damage.		<i>Proposed Mitigating Actions:</i>