



Report for:
ACTION

Item Number:

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Title	Final report of scrutiny panel 1 2022/2023: Tackling the cost of living crisis
Responsible Officer(s)	Helen Harris Director of Legal and Democratic Services harrish@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020 8825 8615
Author(s)	Cllr Varlene Alexander (Chair) Cllr Seema Kumar (Vice Chair) Anna-Marie Rattray Scrutiny Review Officer Email: rattraya@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020 8825 8227
Portfolio(s)	Councillor Louise Brett (Decent, living incomes)
For Consideration By	Cabinet
Date to be Considered	13 September 2023
Implementation Date if Not Called In	25 September 2023
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Scrutiny; review, Cost of Living Crisis, recommendations

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to refer to cabinet the final report and recommendations of scrutiny panel 1 2022-23: Tackling the cost of living crisis.

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that cabinet

- a) notes the final report of scrutiny panel 1 2022/23 – Tackling the cost of living crisis, which is attached as appendix 1
- b) accepts the scrutiny panel’s recommendations in section 13 of the final report
- c) identifies whether further information or advice is required from council officers on any of the recommendations before cabinet can take a decision about accepting or rejecting these
- d) directs council officers to produce/or finalise an action plan within an agreed timescale on those recommendations that are agreed by cabinet

2. Reason for decision and options considered

2.1 Scrutiny panels have a role in improving decision-making and service delivery through effective scrutiny. Recommendations from scrutiny panels need to be taken forward in a timely manner and in accordance with the Council's constitution if the scrutiny function is to be effective. The Scrutiny and Executive Protocol identifies the timescale for cabinet to respond to scrutiny panel recommendations. This decision will mean that the response is made in a timely manner and that services can implement the accepted recommendations.

3. Key implications

3.1 The recommendations of scrutiny panel 1 2022/23 – Tackling the cost of living crisis are provided in a table format in section 13 of the full report of the panel in appendix 1.

3.2 The Council constitution (Part 2 Article 6.03) gives the overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) power to 'set up individual specialist panels to investigate and report back to OSC ...' Part 4 of the constitution, scrutiny procedure rules (par.10) identifies that OSC prepares a formal report on its recommendations and submits it to cabinet.

3.3 Where appropriate, service officers have identified the financial, legal and any other pertinent implications against each recommendation to enable cabinet to reach a decision.

3.4 OSC will monitor the progress on the implementation of each recommendation agreed by cabinet.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The service officer response, including suggested actions which may have potential financial implications, to each recommendation is provided in section 13 of appendix 1.

4.2 The majority of the recommendations have no financial implications or those that have can be contained within existing service budgets. Where a recommendation involves additional funds then these will have to be contained at present and any further allocation of funds would need to be obtained through the normal budget setting process.

5. Legal

5.1 The constitution requires that scrutiny panel recommendations be submitted to the OSC for approval prior to submission to cabinet.

5.2 Where additional legal support is required to implement recommendations, this will be met by the service concerned.

- 6. Value for money**
- 6.1 The effectiveness of scrutiny is measured by the quality of its recommendations to cabinet and the extent to which it has contributed to both democratic renewal and members' community development role. The scrutiny panel held open public meetings, solicited views through expert witnesses and media channels to ensure a regular and sustained input to the work of the Panel.
- 6.2 With respect to scrutiny panel recommendations, value for money implications are outlined in the officer response to each recommendation in the schedule, as appropriate.
- 6.3 If recommendations arising from scrutiny panels are not taken forward and implemented in a timely manner then improvements to service delivery are not being made in an efficient and effective manner.
- 7. Sustainability impact appraisal**
- 7.1 There is none arising directly from this report.
- 8. Risk management**
- 8.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report but the failure to act on agreed recommendations or action plans arising could give rise to risk issues in service delivery.
- 9. Community safety**
- 9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report but the failure to act on agreed recommendations or action plans arising could give rise to risk issues in service delivery and community safety.
- 10. Links applicable to the three key priorities for the borough**
- 10.1 The recommendations arising from the panel's review relate to the key priorities:
Fighting inequality
Creating good jobs
- 11. Equalities, human rights and community cohesion**
- 11.1 No equality analysis assessment has been undertaken on these recommendations. Any equalities or community cohesion issues have been addressed by the service officers' response as appropriate.
- 12. Staffing/workforce and accommodation implications**
- 12.1 Any staffing/workforce and accommodation implications have been addressed by the service officers' response as appropriate.
- 13. Property and assets**
- 13.1 None.
- 14. Any other implications**
- 14.1 None.
- 15. Consultation**
- 15.1 OSC considered and approved the final report of the panel on 6 July 2023.

15.2 The recommendations take into consideration the views of local organisations and residents as expressed at the open meetings held by the Panel.

16. Timetable for implementation

16.1 OSC will monitor, twice yearly, the implementation of the recommendations accepted by cabinet.

Cabinet Action		Date	Service Implementation
1.	Cabinet accepts some or all recommendations.	13 September 2023	25 September 2023 – in line with call-in requirements.
2.	Cabinet requests further information.	13 September 2023	Service provides additional information for cabinet on 12 October 2023.
3.	As a result of further information, cabinet accepts or rejects remaining recommendations.	12 October 2023	24 October 2023 – in line with call-in requirements.

17. Appendices

17.1 **Appendix 1:** Final report and recommendations of scrutiny panel 1 2022/23 – Tackling the cost of living crisis

18. Background information

18.1 Ealing Council's constitution is available at [Council Constitution](#)

18.2 Overview and scrutiny committee – agendas, minutes and reports, available at [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

18.3 Scrutiny Panel 1 2022/23 – Tackling the cost of living crisis minutes and reports, available at [Committee details - Scrutiny Panel 1 - 2022/23: Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Report Consultation

<i>Name of Consultee</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Date Sent to Consultee</i>	<i>Date Response Received from Consultee</i>	<i>Comments Appear in Report Para</i>
<i>Internal</i>				
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	All Committee Members	6 July 2023	6 July 2023	
Connor McDonagh	Assistant Director Economic Growth	12 July 2023	31 August 2023	
Alison Reynolds	Director Customer Services	12 July 2023	15 August 2023	
Rajiv Ahlawat	Strategic Intelligence and Corporate Performance Manager	12 July 2023	21 August 2023	
Helen Harris	Director, Legal and Democratic Services	11 August 2023	11 August 2023	
Councillor Steve Donnelly	Cabinet Member, Inclusive Economy	17 August 2023		
Emily Hill	Strategic Director Resources	29 August 2023	31 August 2023	
<i>External</i>				
None				

Report History

<i>Decision Type:</i>		<i>Urgency item?</i>	
Non-key Decision		No	
<i>Authorised by Cabinet Member:</i>	<i>Date Report Drafted:</i>	<i>Report Deadline:</i>	<i>Date Report Sent:</i>
N/A			
<i>Report No.:</i>	<i>Report Author and Contact for Queries:</i>		
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