

Appendix 1 – Update on cost of living actions

Priorities	Action
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortnightly communications update on all cost-of-living support services. • Cost-of-Living Flyer – promoting resources and support - sent to all households in the City of London • 2 x press releases (Warm Spaces Funding, winter vaccinations and support with cost of living) • 4 x City Advice outreach events (2 x Golden Lane and 2 x Portsoken) • Wraparound letter going into City Matters (7 December) which is intended as a reminder of the activity and campaigns around winter safety • City Advice footer added to rent account letters to City tenants • Web page (Getting help with the cost of living - City of London) created and promoted on front page of City website • Libraries offer of computers and basic IT support added to resources and promoted • Green Dr service promotion • Public access terminals to be provided in both community centres from January utilising funding from City and Hackney Health and Care Board (C&HHCB).
Targeting financial assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third round of government funded Housing Support Fund (£63,000) to be allocated - beneficiaries can only be City residents receiving housing benefit. Once funding has been allocated to this beneficiary group any remaining funds can be allocated at the discretion of the City Corporation. • The Discretionary Energy Support scheme closed on 25th November for new applications. The remaining funding will be used to top up vulnerable residents in Council Tax bands E – H that have previously been eligible for support. • School uniform grant criteria extended to make it more generous in the next school year, and a winter clothes grant being progressed as interim measure. • The Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) – which delivers free holiday time activity and meals to recipients of free school meals - is being finalised for the Christmas period. The draft programme includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Portsoken Community Centre: 4 days (2 before Xmas/ 2 days after Xmas, 4 hours per day), awaiting availability of the community centre,

	<p>programme delivered by the commissioned youth provider Society Links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Golden Lane Leisure Centre: 19- 22 December, full day sports camp, programme delivered by Fit For Sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City Connections' carers service is providing the carers supported by the service with a £50 voucher to help them over the winter months.
<p>Winter warmth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The City Corporation has commissioned Groundwork London to provide a Green Doctor (energy adviser) service to help people stay warmer and use less energy. Residents eligible for the free service are those of pension age, in receipt of benefits and those living with a long-term health condition or disability. The service is being funded by C&HHCB. ● Green Dr drop-in sessions are being organised for the new year at Barbican Library, Golden Lane Community Centre and Portsoken Community Centre. ● A temporary amendment has been made to Stronger Communities Grant criteria, to make available “warm spaces small grants” to fund activity and access where people can come together and stay warm. Promoted through partners, regular channels, faith orgs, resident orgs ● Three warm space grants awarded – two for initiatives in the City, and one in Southwark for City tenants there ● There is a directory of warm spaces and events – such as libraires, community centres and activities in cultural and faith spaces in the Square Mile – that can be found here. ● All three libraries have signed up as a “Warm Space” on the Warm Welcome website. A programme of activities has been developed to complement the “Warm Spaces” initiatives, which include extra ‘Stay & Play’ sessions, board game sessions and free teas and coffees. ● Adult Social Care (ASC) are distributing cold packs. Thirty-five packs have been delivered to date, and 10 offered and declined. Distribution – which will be to all residents with ASC support - provides an opportunity for social care staff to assess any wider needs. This is being organised by strengths-based practitioners (SBPs) and delivered by all allocated workers with SBPs delivering to rest of ASC clients and carers. At present 10 extra packs will be distributed by City libraries through their Home Delivery Service, but further funding is required if distribution of the cold packs is to expand

	<p>further. There are currently some delays in ordering more stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cold packs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thermal blanket ○ Thermal socks and hat ○ Hand warmers ○ Hot water bottle (Caution: maybe risk of scolding for some people so no longer included as standard) ○ Wall Thermometer • Residents in the City can have electric fan heaters replaced free of charge with an electric oil heater through the Fire Prevention Grant. These are more economical and much safer than fan heaters. There have been nine requests for heater replacements to date.
<p>Tackling food poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Luke’s Community Centre Food Programme available to residents in Golden Lane • The City Corporation is working with Family Action and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) to develop a food store proposal for the East of the city. The food stores are membership based, with members paying £3.50 weekly for food and essentials valuing £20-£30. Beneficiaries are referred by advice and support agencies. Potential locations include Artizan Street Library and Community Centre. The delivery will be subject to securing funding.
<p>Increasing income from employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employment and training support service - Connecting Communities (CC) – continues to be promoted to provide support to those seeking to gain or improve employment • CC is working with ASC, Homeless team, Children and Family team, and a local church to reach those it can support with employment.
<p>Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of specialist support service promoted to staff and partners and included on website