

## Appendix Two - Cherwell District Council Cost of Living Current activity grouped by focus / theme

Health and Wellbeing			
Area	What are we doing	Who does it impact	Team responsible
Brighter Futures programme	A partnership approach to support our 3 wards of highest deprivation in Banbury, delivering a variety of initiatives and services to support residents.	Residents living in Ruscote, Neithrop and Grimsbury Wards	Community Development
Community Centre programmes and opportunities across the district	Supporting community centres across the district to develop engaging programmes of activity for all ages at low cost to support their communities they sit in – building stronger communities.	All residents	Community Development
UKSPF funded projects	Delivering a number of initiatives across the district under the levelling up agenda. Focus on improving community facilities to allow residents to access low cost activities to bring communities together and arts and culture to make opportunities accessible for all.	All residents	Community Development /Growth and Economy
You Move	Countywide Family programme developed due to the good practice of the FAST programme initiated in Cherwell.	Families across the district who are eligible for Free School Meals. currently 2100	Sport and Physical Activity

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	<p>Families who are eligible for free school meals can access free activities at schools, local parks, community centres along with free resources, activity packs and more. Every family receives a You Move card which enables them to access incentives such as 75% off family swims, clip n climb, local sports clubs and many more.</p>	<p>individuals and 575 families have signed up.</p>	
Ward Profiles	<p>Delivering a community insight programme to three wards in Banbury (Ruscote, Grimsbury &amp; Neithrop) with residents and local organisations being consulted on what they need in their local area. £75k grant scheme (funded externally) for organisations to apply for funding to deliver provision along with a post (funded externally) for 2 years to provide support in these wards</p>	<p>Three wards in Banbury - Ruscote, Grimsbury and Neithrop)</p>	<p>Sport and Physical Activity</p>
Growing Spaces	<p>Supporting community gardens and growing spaces to bring people together to learn new skills, grow food and share good practice.</p>	<p>All residents living close to a community garden or growing space</p>	<p>Community Development and Healthy Communities</p>

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Bridge Street Gardens	Support the development of the community garden working with the Banbury CAG as a showcase of good practice to work with a variety of local community groups to learn new skills and encourage a social interaction to create a strong community.	Banbury residents and community groups	Community Development
Electric Blanket testing partner	Free electric blanket testing delivered in partnership with OCC Trading standards and Fire & Rescue. This service promotes health and safety, staying well in winter and provides other info on local services.	All residents	Community Development
Volunteer driver scheme	Initiative working with Citizens Advice to link residents to low cost (price of fuel) transport for appointments across the county	All residents	Community Development
12 Weeks Winter Wellbeing Activity Sheets	Free activity sheets focussing on health and wellbeing, free/low-cost activities, and useful contact numbers to help older residents stay well and active over the winter	All residents	Community Development

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Food Insecurity			
Food Vouchers	Provided a food voucher scheme to residents on housing benefits last winter and continued to work with Cherwell Community Food Network to support individuals in need.	Residents on housing benefits	Healthy Communities
Food Vouchers 2	Supplying 30K food vouchers across CDC for foodbanks to hand out at £50 each. 200 vouchers per foodbank.	Residents in Cherwell visiting the 3 foodbanks covering the district	Healthy Communities
Food support grants	Created a community food grant for local organisations to apply for up to £750 to support residents focussing on food provision.	All CDC groups who want to or already provide food or food storage. For constituted groups with organisation bank accounts.	Healthy Communities
Harvest @Home and The Cherwell Collective	Weekly Thursday sessions in Exeter Hall where locally grown food and surplus food is available to residents to take away. Cooked meals are also provided for residents who visit.	Residents in Kidlington and the surrounding villages.	Healthy Communities
Good Food Oxfordshire – Food support services map	Supporting GFO to have an updated map showing where residents can find food support. Encourage	Residents and food groups.	Healthy Communities

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	local groups to sign up to the map.		
Winter Warmers	Winter Warmers initiative delivers hot food to vulnerable older residents by volunteers. It promotes health and wellbeing, encourages people to stay well during the winter months. Not only is food provided, additional information on support services, community groups, food options and a weekly wellbeing check in is provided.	Selected vulnerable older residents across Cherwell. Residents are selected through local organisations such as Age UK and promoted to the local community	Community Development
Play: Full	Encouraging holiday activity providers to link a food offer to all sessions delivered and to follow the Play: Full pledge.	Young people and families focused on 3 wards of deprivation in Banbury	Community Development
Activate and Eat	Providing children aged 5 - 11 years old who are eligible for Free School Meals with FREE physical activity and food holiday clubs during school holidays. There are clubs in Banbury, Bicester, and Kidlington with 4500 FREE places available across Easter and Summer holidays	Children and families across the district who are eligible for free school meals	Tom Gubbins Sport and physical activity
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>			

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Warm Welcome network	During the autumn/ winter months the warm welcome initiative encourages community spaces to make themselves available to offer a warm welcome for all during the cold months and where possible link to free or low cost activities	All residents	Community Development
Better Housing Better Health	Help and advice with energy efficiency and affordable warmth, and cold unsafe homes. Includes home visits by NEF.	All residents	David North / NEF / Oxfordshire County Council Housing
Cherwell Energy Efficiency Project (CHEEP)	The grant is available to all private sector landlords for the improvement of existing privately rented properties and does not have to be repaid (provided all grant conditions are met). However, to help encourage the move towards renewables, we no longer offer contributions towards new or replacement gas or oil boilers. Instead, we offer bigger contributions for electric and renewable heating systems and have increased the maximum total grant to £5000.	Private Sector Landlords	Housing standards team
Eco4	A new programme to support better insulation of homes run in conjunction	Residents referred to Better	Housing standards team

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	with Better Housing Better Health	Housing, Better Health	
<a href="#">Home Efficiency Hub</a>	Free, independent service to help residents of Bicester West improve their home heating energy systems with heat pumps, solar panels and other efficiency upgrades.  Includes a Free Home Efficiency Plan (worth £500), £5k off a heat pump.	Bicester West residents	Climate Action
Sustainable warmth Grants	Grant scheme administered by OCC to provide a range of energy efficiency improvements to be retrofitted to Oxfordshire homes, available to owner occupiers and private tenants (landlords expected to contribute a minimum of one-third of the cost) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For homes <b>connected</b> to the mains gas grid, the grant available is up to £10,000</li> <li>• For homes <b>not connected</b> to the mains gas grid, the grant available is up to £25,000</li> </ul>	All residents	Climate Action
<b>Accessing Advice</b>			
Debt and Money advice contract	Provide funding to the Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South	It is a universal general information and	Strategic Housing team

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	Northamptonshire for the provision of money advice services	money advice service for anyone living with debt in the Cherwell area.	
CDC Who can help resource booklet	A resource to sign post residents to key services across Oxfordshire	All residents	U79oCommunity Development
Age UK Oxfordshire - support for older residents	Supporting local older residents and groups to live well. Provide pop up info events, support to vulnerable people and communities, community activities, information, and advice as well as signposting to other support services.	All residents	Community Development
Local group support – Baby Banks, School uniform swaps etc	Supporting local community groups to deliver services to support residents – Hanwell Fields Community Centre central location for service	Local residents	Community Development
Senior & Voluntary Sector Forum	CDC host an annual forum for senior and voluntary sector partners and groups to provide info and support around topics for cost-of-living crisis, agenda included topics on entitlements, food, funding, volunteering and loneliness and isolation.	Cherwell senior voluntary sector groups and organisations	Community Development

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<b>Maximising Income</b>			
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Applying the CTRS scheme in line with the Council's Policy which gives reductions in Council Tax Bills to those in need depending on their earnings and circumstances	Working age, working age with children and over 65s via means test.	Revenues and Benefits team
Discretionary Housing Payments	Applying DHP policy to help those in financial hardship	Depends on individual circumstances – but must demonstrate financial hardship and means test.	Revenues and Benefits team
Household Support Funding	Funding from central government devolved to councils, with local discretion on distribution. Tranches 1,2 & 3 in Cherwell have been in the form of hardship grants to individuals and households, distributed in partnership with Citizens Advice. Tranche 4 is yet to be determined, but likely to be support to VCS organisations delivering cost of living services and support as Oxfordshire County Council has centralised grant giving to individuals.	All residents	Healthy Communities

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Grants and Assistance for Landlords	A range of help and support for homeowners and tenants to make sure residents are living in safe and energy efficient homes	All residents	Housing Standards
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