## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2022

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Shabana Kauser

(For all enquiries) Principal Democratic Services Officer

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WARD(S): All

PART I FOR DECISION

## MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 14

The following motion has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-

## A) Cost of Living Crisis

(Moved by Councillor Brooker, seconded by Councillor Hulme)

"This Council recognises that cost of living pressures have risen to such an extent that some residents are struggling to manage and, for many, the situation has now effectively become an emergency.

Slough Borough Council, using what resources are available to us to provide assistance, will prioritise support for our residents to those who need it most. We resolve to:

- Prepare a formal 'state of Slough' report to better understand and fully assess the impacts of the current crisis.
- Arrange meetings with partner organisations to ensure we coordinate staff, volunteers, and operational tasks between our
  organisations to assist residents through our responses to the costof- living crisis as fully and efficiently as we can and to ensure that
  all those involved in response activity are well-trained and aware of
  risks faced by individuals.
- Refresh the 'One Slough' Voluntary Sector Partnership and equip it to lead in providing help to residents in tackling issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis.
- Provide £15 food vouchers, per week per child, to households in receipt of free school meals (under tranche three of the Housing Support Fund) to cover school holidays from Christmas 2022 until February 2023.
- Compile a list of public buildings locally that during this winter will be regularly open, staffed, heated and warm - where residents who can't afford to heat their homes can safely and comfortably spend time at no cost.

This Council also resolves to write to the UK Government calling on them to:

- Convene an emergency response committee to tackle cost of living pressures with urgent measures
- Immediately reduce VAT on home energy bills and produce a sustainable plan to rapidly invest in insulating homes that have poor energy efficiency/performance.
- Review the legislation, method and calculations used to set Local Housing Allowance to ensure that rates are more responsive to areas with high and increasing market rents, so that LHA can better respond to housing cost pressures
- Announce a medium-term financial settlement for Local Authorities so they can plan and prepare budgets over a medium-term financial cycle, ensure through this settlement that local Authorities are adequately resourced for the life of their MTFSs, and use the settlement to help local Councils provide proper support for residents during the cost-of-living crisis.
- Recognise the particular needs of the urban authorities, with high levels of deprivation, and prioritise these within the government's refreshed commitment to 'Levelling Up' activity."