

25th October 2022

You are hereby invited to a meeting of the **COST OF LIVING COMMITTEE** (Cllrs: Boggis, Fraser Guilfoyle, Hedges & Matthias) which will be held in the **GREENWOOD ROOM** in Hebden Bridge Town Hall on **THURSDAY 27th JULY 2023 at 1.00pm.**



Jason Boom
Clerk to the Council



**Hebden Royd
Town Council**

The Town Hall
St George's Street
Hebden Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX7 7BY

Tel 01422 842181

Fax 01422 847052

info@hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk

This meeting is open to the public unless Members decide to exclude the public for any exempt or confidential item of business.

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COST OF LIVING COMMITTEE

(Role of a committee chair enclosed).

2. Apologies for Absence and any substitutions

3. Members' Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

4. Matters arising from Minutes of Meetings held 4th April 2023 not itemised on this Agenda

5. COST OF LIVING PROGRAMME 2022/23

To consider grants awarded and evaluations received from groups that were funded as part of the 2022/23 programme.

6. PURPOSE OF FUNDS & PRIORITIES 2023/24

To consider arrangements from 2022/23 and to decide on changes that are needed. Comments from the Questions and Suggestions session are included.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING & MEETING FREQUENCY



Looking at forecasts for energy prices , although they may be slightly lower in terms of cost of usage the standing charges are likely to remain high, affecting the overall costs particularly as the cap has been removed with no evidence it will be re-introduced in the winter months. The government may provide assistance again, but this has not been assured.

Mortgage rates as you know have increased to the highest rates in over 30 years . Furthering the risk of evictions and increased home losses.

These factors seem to indicate that financial hardship and the demographic affected will not follow traditional pathways, and vulnerable groups will extend into working families with mortgages.

The BBC living correspondent reported that bill payers are dipping into savings accounts at a record level in May. This has prompted warnings from charities about the ongoing high cost of living.

Locally , despite warmer weather Calder food support has found the search for food supplementation has not dropped below 50 bags per week.

Many of the bags are collected by different people on a weekly basis, showing that the support is needed to see people through periods of high expense and hardship.

Summer holidays are fast approaching with the concern that many children will not receive free school meals for 6 weeks, stretching family budgets further.

With this in mind I think we should hold a preparatory meeting before the end of July to ensure we can act in a pro active rather than reactive manner when the time comes . Probably before Strategy and Review so the allocated budget can be discussed and voted on at that meeting.