

Recommendations for Cabinet that will resolve in an action being taken:

Overview Committee on 14 November 2019

Minute 36 Poverty in East Devon
RECOMMENDED by the Overview Committee that Cabinet:
1. Consider funding the creation of an East Devon Poverty Strategy to further develop and target the areas identified within this report that we are able to influence and to support a corporate approach to ensure consistency across Council Services.
2. Carry out a review of the funding and delivery arrangements for Money Advice to ensure that we're focussing on the key issues identified in the report.
3. Recommend that Council protect the existing funding levels contributed for Money Advice to Homemaker South West and Citizens of circa £120,000 for 2020/21 to enable the review (Recommendation 2) to be undertaken.
4. Update Corporate Debt Policy to include; Breathing Space in-line with proposed Government changes & to consider any other supportive measures that may be beneficial.
5. Agree to the Council's frontline services, in collaboration, setting up a series of local events across the District with key stakeholders that focus on Universal Credit, Money/Debt advice (including how to avoid Loan sharks), budgeting, fuel poverty, etc with the over-arching aim of supporting people to become more financially resilient.
6. Consider lobbying central Government directly and/or through our MPs in the following areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right to Buy• Removing the freeze on Local Housing Allowance Rates in order to be reassessed to reflect market rents.• Universal Credit – More financial support to be given to customers to help with the transition. More funding to be given to local Councils to reflect the support that customers need with moving onto this Benefit.
7. Continue to explore opportunities to increase our supply of social housing through either redevelopment of existing stock and/or building new Council Housing, in conjunction with a review of the current Housing Revenue Account business plan.
8. Agree to the Council working alongside East Devon foodbanks to better understand demand and eradicate dependency that could lead to a reduction and possible extinction of the need for foodbanks in the district.
9. Undertake a detailed analysis of fuel poverty in the district with a view to developing a separate action plan.