

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Revenues and Benefits & Poverty and Prevention

Directorate: Financial Services & Social Services

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Cost Of Living Support Scheme Payment – discretionary element.

As part of the Welsh Government’s Supplementary Budget, on 15 February 2022 the Welsh Government announced a Cost of Living Support Scheme (“the scheme”) to be administered on its behalf by local authorities. The criteria of the ‘Main Scheme’ have been determined by Welsh Government but for part of the funding provided, Welsh LAs have been given the discretion to determine their own local discretionary schemes with their own local criteria. A previous report explained the options available and provided recommendations to Cabinet for adoption as the Council’s Local scheme. Authorities have been tasked by the Minister for Finance and Local Government to proceed with designing and delivering their schemes as soon as they are able to do so. As we approach the end of the scheme, it is apparent there will be an estimated underspend of the available funding so this report considers further groups that can be supported through the discretionary scheme as a result of that estimated underspend.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

As the developers of the whole scheme, welsh government would be expected to have carried out any engagement considered necessary or required. In respect of the discretionary scheme the criteria for which are determined locally, we have been required to develop and implement the scheme at pace so payments can be issued rapidly to deal with the immediate hardship caused by increases in the cost of living already being experienced by our citizens. With that requirement in mind, there is no time for a 'normal' engagement process to be undertaken as the delay caused by that process would defeat the aims of the scheme as a whole. Informal discussion across the authority have taken place and have fed into the development of these additional payments from the discretionary scheme.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?
 Yes ✓ No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
 Yes ✓ No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
 Yes ✓ No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
 Yes ✓ No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low risk <input type="checkbox"/>
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Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Anyone who needs to make a payment to the Council for goods and services provided by any department will have a greater financial resources available to do so. We anticipate that the financial benefits of these additional payments to those in difficult circumstances will reduce debt and assist them to deal with the current cost of living crisis. They should therefore somewhat reduce the workload of departments assisting those people.

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

£14,000,000 paid to Swansea citizens to help them deal with the rising cost of living. This is a positive outcome and will assist with alleviating poverty in the area.

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Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

The ability to make rapid payments from the Cost-of-Living Support Scheme will have a positive impact for recipients. The support will help maximise income to households and will help reduce hardship in the city. Additionally, there may also be positive impacts on the workload of the Poverty and Prevention Service, Housing, Finance and other Departments. By rapidly designing and implementing the discretionary scheme so we can issue payments to citizens in need without delay, and before the scheme closes, as the authority has been asked to do by the Minister for Finance and Local Government.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Julian Morgans
Job title: Head of Revenues and Benefits
Date: 29/1/23
Approval by Head of Service:
Name:
Position:
Date:

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk