

Activity	Responsible service	Investment winter 2022/2023 and source	Impact, effectiveness, value for money, and lessons learnt	Priority (and rationale)	Proposed one-off investment winter 2023/2024
Support for community supermarkets (community pantries).	Communities and Partnerships	£262,000 Revenue Investment Fund (RIF)	Very good outcomes, with 733 members and a total of 6,484 shopping baskets. However, we will need to continue investing in the Lillington, Camp Hill, and New Arley facilities in the short- to medium-term. Ongoing work on sustainability options will inform the Medium-Term Financial Strategy refresh.	High  (High profile project. Elements of community dependency within Lillington, Camp Hill and New Arley, which need to be managed. Three-year funding would enable the transition to a sustainable delivery model.)	£0  Any costs of sustaining the network will be part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy refresh process.
Create a support fund for the County's food banks, including support with energy costs, food costs, and the supply of other household essentials such as hygiene products.	Communities and Partnerships, Customer Contact Centre	£100,000 RIF	Circa £30,000 of funding was used for winter 2022/2023. Financial support for food banks mostly came from the Household Support Fund (HSF), but the HSF was unable to cover certain types of expenditure, including premises costs. For winter 2023/2024 this is a situation likely to be repeated. Therefore, if further funding were available for winter 2023/2024, it would seem sensible to set some aside to support the food banks and non-WCC funded food supermarkets (the dividing line between food banks and food supermarkets becoming increasingly blurred).	Medium  (HSF covers most food bank expenditure. Pressure on food banks for winter 2023/2024 likely to be equal to or greater than it was for winter 2022/2023).	£30,000

<p>Develop additional volunteer capacity to support the operation of Libraries as warm hubs.</p>	<p>Libraries</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Experience indicates that we need capacity to grow the volunteer base to support the warm hubs. If further funding were available, a Volunteer Co-ordinator in place between September 2023 and March 2024 would be helpful.</p> <p>Libraries held 984 events between November 2022 and March 2023. There were 13,762 attendees. Feedback from staff raised concerns that due to lack of outreach capacity, the service wasn't reaching residents in greatest need. A Co-ordinator would be able to link with partners especially in priority LSOAs and encourage attendance to events and to encourage residents to volunteer and become involved in running the Warm Welcome Events, helping to facilitate activities. It is projected that with a Co-ordinator in post, a minimum of 49 additional events could be held which would result in approximately 1500 more attendees.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>(Flagship County Council response to cost-of-living pressures. Modest investment with a good return.)</p>	<p>£15,000</p>
<p>Extend library and museum activities as warm hubs, including activities for children and families. This is to include a marketing</p>	<p>Libraries</p>	<p>£25,000 RIF</p>	<p>Feedback has indicated that the lack of marketing and promotion meant some of the most vulnerable groups were not aware of the library and museum offer. If further funding were available, a timely seasonal campaign would address this issue and have long term positive benefits</p>	<p>High</p> <p>(Flagship County Council response to cost-of-living pressures. Modest investment with a good return.)</p>	<p>£33,000 (to include additional marketing and promotional capacity)</p>

campaign to ensure that the offer is known more widely.			on increasing library membership and usage.		
Further support the digital “You Can Online” project, for laptop lending to assist with overcoming digital exclusion / poverty.	Libraries	N/A	Further support for the project would allow it to expand further if additional funding were available.	Medium  (Good return on investment likely, links to wider digital inclusion work, good sustainability.)	£20,000
Funding to extend Warwickshire Rural Community Council’s “Winter Warm Hubs” project, providing warm places at community venues across the county	Communities and Partnerships	£30,000 RIF	Excellent return on investment over winter 2022/2023, supporting 80 community-led hubs, delivering 1,400 sessions, and 13,600 visits by Warwickshire residents. Additional benefits including wraparound care and signposting, and good sustainability with many of the hubs evolving into other ongoing activities. High investment priority for further investment for winter 2023/2024.	High  (High profile project delivering excellent return for a modest investment.)	£30,000
Support for voluntary and community transport schemes, medical and social journeys, including hardship funding, to be	Communities and Partnerships, Public Health	£50,000 RIF	Good return on investment over winter 2022/2023. For each of the 5 Boroughs/ Districts, funding was split: £2,500 for core/cost of living increases for the charities. £2,500 for volunteer costs and recruitment.	High  (Good return on investment. Schemes supporting vulnerable residents without access to other suitable means of transport to access	£50,000

distributed via the established Warwickshire Community Transport group/partnership.			£5,000 for associated journey costs (approximately 1,300 journeys supported directly or indirectly). If further funding were available for winter 2023/2024, recommend similar investment.	essential medical appointments and social support.)	
Additional capacity for Citizens Advice for debt, benefits, money management, housing, and employment advice.	Communities and Partnerships	£285,000 RIF	Excellent return on investment. 366% increase in telephone calls answered in the first month of operation, and 90% of enquiries dealt with by telephone Previous investment covered the period to March 2025, so no further investment needed.	N/A	£0
Small grants scheme for VCSE organisations and Town and Parish Councils to maintain or establish projects addressing cost-of-living-pressures. Projects excluding community-led warm hubs to avoid duplication with WRCC investment above, and excluding	Communities and Partnerships	£180,000 RIF	Circa £92,000 of the funding was used for winter 2022/2023, funding 98 projects. Although there was good return on investment, there was also some duplication with partners' funding schemes, including Boroughs/Districts.	Low  (Other funding schemes available to VCSE organisations.)	£0

projects funded through the HSF.					
Cost-of-Living Summit.	Communities and Partnerships	£5,000 RIF	Successful summit, circa 110 attendees. Outcomes included a collaborative offer of support for all Warwickshire residents, the combined cost-of-living website, and training for frontline workers. Second event planned for October 2023.	High  (We are committed to a further cost of living event in the autumn.)	£5,000
Exploration of free school meals automated registration.	Communities and Partnerships	£2,000, mostly Legal recharges met from existing service budget	Exploration concluded that as a Local Authority we do not have a lawful basis to automatically register eligible children for free school meals. Supplementary work focused on the promotion of free school meals and associated pupil premium. The cost of £2,000 was mostly Legal recharges, met from Communities and Partnerships budget. If further funding were available, it would make sense to continue the promotion work over winter 2023/2024.	Medium  (Continued promotion of free school meals needed to maintain current levels of take-up. Activities including webpage development, distribution of flyers in different languages, direct contact with parents on DWP and Mosaic lists, support for parents to apply, contact with schools, attendance at relevant meetings and parents' evenings.)	£5,000

Extension of Family Information Service, Tackling Social Inequalities post until March 2025.	Family Information Service	N/a	We have seen the positive impact of the pro-active Tackling Social Inequalities work over the last 18-months. This work actively encourages and enables families who can't, won't, and don't access services and support by removing barriers. Enhanced outreach and communications enable the Family Information Service to increase income and charity applications, and access to free school meals, childcare funding, and Healthy Start support.	Medium  (Key cost-of-living support, currently due to end March 2024, postholder likely to vacate before this. This funding will enable continuation of one of the three Tackling Social Inequalities postholders, keeping the expertise and momentum of the invaluable work that has been started).	£40,000
Subtotal					£228,000
High priorities					£133,000
Medium priorities					£95,000
<b>Internal support costs</b>					
Marketing and Communications recharges	Marketing and Communications	N/A	Shared website updating and maintenance, press releases, support for event(s), etc.	High  (Specialist Marketing and Comms support needed.)	£3,750 (15 days)
Legal recharges	Legal	N/A	Drafting and executing of contracts, specialist legal advice around, for example, free school meals, etc.	High  (Specialist Legal support needed.)	£1,000 (c10 hours)

Business Support recharges	Business Support	N/A	Support around meetings and events, monitoring and reporting activity, administration of grant schemes, etc.	High  (Business Support needed.)	£2,000 (c125 hours)
Communities and Partnerships coordination costs	Communities and Partnerships	N/A	Co-ordination of all activity, internal and external partnership groups, members briefings, external partner briefings, reports to Committee and Cabinet, etc.	High  (Co-ordination costs not budgeted for in Communities and Partnerships cost centres.)	£7,500 (30 days)
Sub total					£14,250
<b>Total</b>					<b>£242,250</b>

#### RIF “budget,” £1,000,000

<b>Expenditure 2022/2023</b>	
Actual	£188,023
Total	£188,023

<b>Expenditure 2023/2024</b>	
Actual	£365,588 (includes £262,000 community pantries for 2023/2024, and Citizens Advice telephony service £59,375 (5x monthly payments))
Committed	£83,125 (Citizens Advice telephony service 7x monthly payments)
Total	£448,713

<b>Expenditure 2024/2025</b>	
Committed	£95,000 (Citizens Advice telephony service 8 x monthly payments)

Total	£95,000
<b>Total actual and committed expenditure</b>	<b>£731,736</b>

Adding the £242,250 to this figure produces a total of £973,986 (£26,014 remaining of the original £1,000,000 “budget”).