

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 October 2022Report by Director of Business Operations & PartnershipsCOVID RESERVE – PROPOSALS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the allocation of £1.7m of non-recurring COVID recovery reserves to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic, with a focus on community recovery and provision of direct support to some of our most vulnerable residents across a difficult winter period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a) Note the one-off availability of COVID recovery reserves, resulting from Scottish Government funding, to support pandemic recovery and renewal.
 - b) Approve the strategic approach to support recovery under the following key areas:
 - i. Direct support for the most vulnerable this winter
 - ii. Support for advisory services
 - iii. Support for communities, including capacity building for long-term recovery
 - iv. Initiatives to reduce the impact of fuel poverty
 - v. Support to improve mental health and wellbeing.
 - c) Approve the funding proposals, totalling £1.7m, summarised at paragraph 14 and detailed in Annex 2 and note that, should further funds become available, there may be potential to allocate funding to some of the reserve list proposals (see Annex 3).
 - d) Delegate to the Director of Business Operations & Partnerships, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to exercise flexibility in the terms of these proposals, to ensure most effective use of funding within the spirit of COVID recovery, capacity building and provision of support to the most vulnerable local people.
 - e) Note that a final report outlining actual spend and updating on delivery and impact will come back to a future Cabinet meeting.

BACKGROUND

Funding

3. In response to COVID-19, the Scottish Government released various streams of temporary funding to local authorities to react to the emerging needs and challenges faced by residents, businesses and service provision.

4. The funding landscape has been complex, with numerous funds each with varying criterion and central reporting requirements. Elected members have been kept informed of these funds through regular reports to Council since 2020 and in specific, more detailed reports such as for Humanitarian funding and the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) fund, most recently in August 2022.

5. 'Humanitarian Funding' is an umbrella term which refers to the funding streams intended to support residents to overcome financial crisis and support financial wellbeing. This funding has been used over the last two years to tackle food insecurity; help with rising fuel costs; provide financial advice and support; and provide a range of direct payments to individuals experiencing financial hardship. Update reports have been considered by Cabinet most recently in November 2021.

6. The Flexible Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund (LACER) is intended to support local economic recovery and the cost-of-living impacts on low-income households. In [August 2022 Cabinet](#) agreed £1.469m of LACER proposals including supporting local businesses to recover from the impact of the pandemic; rebuilding consumer confidence and stimulating economic activity; and supporting low-income households to become more economically active, taking a 'cash-first' approach.

7. There is a separate report on today's agenda which refers to further economic supports totalling £1.25m aimed at benefitting the long-term economic growth of the areas including supporting the green economy, tourism and increased footfall in our town centres (see [agenda item 7: Local Discretionary Fund Business Support Interventions](#)). This fund complements LACER and the support to local business intervention element of the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#).

8. The HSCP have been allocated Covid Recovery funding direct from the Scottish Government and intend to use some of that funding for a range of complementary projects. The Scottish Government also provided specific funding for education recovery.

REPORT

Funding – COVID Reserve

9. The Scottish Government also provided councils with a general Covid grant. This funding has to be used for dealing with the impact of Covid and Covid recovery but there are no specific rules around its use. These are non-recurring funds and must be used to support COVID response, recovery or renewal. At the start of 2022/23, there was £10.5m left in this unrestricted COVID reserve. We have now committed £4.8m of that funding over this year and next, mainly for the internal costs of loss of income and additional staffing costs. This leaves £5.7m uncommitted at this point. This report proposes that a further £1.7m of this reserve is

now committed, leaving the remainder available for any COVID costs over winter 2022/23 and for all of 2023/24. The Scottish Government have been clear that there will be no further funding. With another COVID wave expected in the autumn, pressures on staffing levels could increase in late 2022/23 and additional funding may be required to keep services running. Income is still expected to be affected in 2023/24.

10. At this point, Accountancy recommend that we do not commit more than £1.7m for interventions to support residents, leaving £4m for Council pressures. However, as we get further into the winter period, we should be in a clearer position regarding pressures and it may be possible to release some of the retained £4m for intervention to support residents.

11. Proposals discussed to date with partner agencies and Council services seek to balance provision of immediate support to mitigate financial hardship this winter, with capacity-building for longer term recovery. These proposals total to more than £1.7M. The envelope for funding will be kept under review and, should further resources become available from the COVID reserve, or any alternative relevant source (even via Partner agencies), the list of proposals can be reviewed and the next set of priorities progressed.

Proposals

12. Annex 1 contains further detail on the research, impact and context of today's proposals. Using findings from the [humanitarian research](#), funding proposals have had to meet a number of criteria. They must demonstrate that they will alleviate or mitigate one of the 'four harms' of the pandemic; target the key groups identified in the research; provide one of the recommended interventions or activities to alleviate the impact of the pandemic; and be able to demonstrate outcomes and impact.

13. Today's proposals build further on the commitments already made by Cabinet in [August 2022](#) through allocation of £1.469m of LACER funding. Humanitarian LACER commitments included:

- £169,600 of support for social housing tenants
- £65,000 of winter clothing support
- £511,291 to allow distribution of £100 Shop Local Gift Cards to over 4500 households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction
- £260,000 to allow professionals (e.g. SWF, MART, CAB and schools) to make discretionary hardship payments
- £49,850 towards Dunterlie and Thornliebank foodshares

14. Building on commitments already made, the £1.7m currently available for use in the COVID reserve allows us to bring forward further proposals for immediate support to local communities. These are set out in detail at Annex 2 and are summarised below:

Summary of Proposals	Detail	2022/23	2023/24
Winter Direct Support	This fund provides direct support this winter to the most vulnerable in our area. It includes: direct cash payments to families to support with winter costs, reaching over 2,000 children in East Renfrewshire; discretionary payments for carers; vouchers for Christmas meals for c.200 families identified by Social Work; and support to Third Sector organisations helping with food and school uniform provision.	£546,000	£0
Advice and Support Services	This will build staffing capacity across advice services to support increasing demands for benefits and money advice.	£40,000	£80,000
Support for Communities	This fund will focus on frontline support and building capacity of community groups; a public information campaign; augmenting local community approaches to 'warm spaces'; analysing and mapping needs of communities; and grant-making participatory budgeting.	£324,363	£447,363
Reducing Fuel Poverty	This will provide additional advisory capacity and practical interventions to respond to the fuel poverty crisis for our most vulnerable residents.	£50,000	£84,500
Mental Health and Wellbeing Support	This will build capacity to respond to vulnerable groups, particularly children and young people and victims of domestic violence. It will also provide wellbeing support for Council staff to cope with pressures in their own lives and work, following a successful model in the HSCP.	£67,500	£60,000
	Total by Year	£1,027,86	£671,86
	Overall Total to be progressed immediately	£1,699,726	

15. Additionally, there are a number of proposals, which meet the criteria, but where there is insufficient funding available at this time. These deferred proposals are outlined at Annex 3. The deferred proposals total to a further £227,363 for 2022/23 and £993,363 for 2023/24. Together with the £1.7m outlined above, the overall proposals to date total to £2.92m. Should further funding become available through any alternative source, we will return to these deferred proposals, with a particular focus initially on increasing discretionary hardship provision and direct support to local residents.

16. In addition, the proposals for grant-making participatory budgeting in our most deprived communities, will allow local groups the chance to bid for small grants in order to support their own recovery and renewal. This community capacity building will be vital to ensure that communities are well-placed for the long-term when temporary funding is no longer available.

17. In recognition of the additional pressures that the cost-of-living crisis will put on Social Work Section 22 payments for children in need, the HSCP is also contributing a further £60,000 to cope with potential overspend. It is proposed that the spend will be a reactionary response to the cost-of-living increase but also impact overall on the child poverty action plan.

18. HSCP is also funding a further post (£46,000) to provide additional capacity in its multi-disciplinary adult services team to respond to growing demands.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

19. The COVID reserve is made up of funding issued by the Scottish Government as detailed above and expenditure from it must meet the conditions for use. No further COVID funding is expected from Government and so the Council must manage its COVID response, recovery and renewal activities within these finite resources.

20. It has not been possible to fund all the proposals put forward by services/partners at this time. The envelope for funding will be kept under review and it is possible that further funding streams may be identified either by the Council (e.g. through the COVID reserve) or via partners. In that event, the list of proposals would be reviewed again and the next set of priorities progressed.

21. Given the fluid nature of this environment, it is proposed that delegation be granted to the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to manage the funds with a degree of flexibility, within the spirit of the proposals and to best meet the needs of local people in East Renfrewshire. A further report will be brought back to Cabinet in due course outlining the use of the funds and the outcomes and impact.

CONSULTATION & PARTNERSHIP WORKING

22. The humanitarian response to COVID in East Renfrewshire has continued through a small partnership working group where ongoing needs have been assessed. This partnership working has included Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (VAER) and East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (ERCAB); and wider stakeholder groups such as the Social Security Working Group, Local Child Poverty Action Group and Local Employability Partnership. A cost-of-living working group has been convened with cross-departmental officer and partner organisations to continue to map and track need going forward.

23. VAER hosted collaborative events with a range of local agencies, on 20/21st September to discuss the cost-of-living crisis and to identify areas of unmet need and start to map local supports available. The findings of these sessions have been used to inform these proposals and will be used to further shape delivery of proposals such as the 'warm spaces' initiative.

24. Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire are collating a partnership [list of community supports](#) that are available or local residents can call the VAER Community Hub on 0141 876 9555 for further details. Groups are also encouraged to add their own information to this list.

25. A cross-party Member Officer Working Group has also met to discuss these proposals and will continue to discuss the cost-of-living crisis in coming months. An Information and

Consultation Session on the cost-of-living crisis, hosted by MART and East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau, will take place pre-Council on 26 October.

26. A Greater Glasgow and Clyde group is being convened to share details of actions being taken to support local communities in the region, building on the GCR poverty research outlined earlier in this report.

27. The Scottish Government has also recently launched a [Cost of Living campaign](#) aimed at supporting people across Scotland. This includes a new national website, which connects back to local councils, a marketing campaign which will run on various media channels and signposting advice and support. Libraries have been selected as a key distribution point for paper-based information. 150,000 public information leaflets will shortly be distributed across the public library network to cover library buildings and mobiles. East Renfrewshire Council also has its own [cost of living webpage](#) .

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

28. There are no specific implications of this report in terms of staffing, property, legal, ICT, equalities or sustainability. Any proposals funded will be required to consider these implications for each individual project or initiative.

CONCLUSION

29. Funding of these proposals will provide much needed support to our most vulnerable residents who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. The [Humanitarian Research](#) (referred to in Annex 1) has been used to inform criteria ensuring support is targeted at those most impacted by the pandemic and interventions are based on recommended areas for recovery. Proposals build on the £1.469m already allocated through LACER in August; the £1.25m of economic growth proposals separately on today's agenda (item 7); and allocates a further, immediate £.1.7m of support including direct support for the most vulnerable this winter; support for advisory services; support for communities, including capacity building for long-term recovery; initiatives to reduce the impact of fuel poverty; and support to improve mental health and wellbeing. Together these represent a package of support totalling over £4.4m that the Council has been able to direct to the East Renfrewshire area.

30. There are a range of pressures on local people and communities, particularly driven by the pandemic and cost-of living crisis. These are complex multi-faceted issues, which will require a co-ordinated, long-term partnership approach. The proposals outlined build on the experiences of strong, outcome-focused partnership delivery over the last 2 years. We will continue to work together to find ways to make a difference for the people of East Renfrewshire and support them through what will be a challenging period ahead.

RECOMMENDATIONS

31. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note the one-off availability of COVID recovery reserves, resulting from Scottish Government funding, to support pandemic recovery and renewal.

- b) Approve the strategic approach to support recovery under the following key areas:
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- e) Note that a final report outlining actual spend and updating on delivery and impact will come back to a future Cabinet meeting.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Local Discretionary Fund Business Support Interventions, Cabinet 13 October 2022
- Improving Outcomes Through Pupil Equity Fund, Education Committee 6 October 2022
- Flexible Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund, Cabinet 18 Aug/7 April 2022
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-23, Cabinet 18 August 2022
- Strategic Planning, Council 3 March 2022 (includes detail of COVID-19 Impact study)
- COVID-19 Humanitarian Support Community Funding, Cabinet 25 November 2021
- COVID-19 Humanitarian Support Funding 2021/22, Cabinet 3 June 2021

Research, Impact & Context

1. In 2021, East Renfrewshire Council commissioned a [Humanitarian Research study](#) to consider how the pandemic had impacted businesses and communities, and how public agencies, their partners and communities could support recovery. The study included a particular focus on the lived experience of people and communities, how this has varied across key socio-economic groups, and the extent to which the pandemic may have added to existing inequalities.

2. The findings from the study were structured around the 'Four Harms':



3. The direct and indirect health impacts of the pandemic continue to be addressed by Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS and East Renfrewshire HSCP including responding to the backlog of patients waiting to be seen for non-Covid related health conditions.

4. There are an estimated 2,500 to 4,500 people in East Renfrewshire who are affected by long-COVID, which may impact their ability to work.

5. The societal and economic harms caused by the pandemic also continue to be felt by residents across East Renfrewshire and many will be exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis. The research noted key priority groups who should be prioritised for recovery support including children and young people; older people; those with disabilities and long-term conditions; carers; single households; young families; those with language barriers and those experiencing domestic violence.

6. Wellbeing and quality of life impacts were felt by many and in particular older people, people with disabilities/limiting long-term illness, parents of young children and those with Additional Support Needs (ASN), women and lower income households

7. There was an increase in the complexity of domestic violence cases, particularly among more vulnerable groups. The research also predicts there will be long-term impacts of loss of social connectedness and active living, with a loss of confidence and increase in anxiety and worry for many, though mainly older adults and those with long-term conditions.

8. For children and young people, a number struggled with home schooling, particularly those with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and from income-deprived households. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic represents a significant challenge to improving the equity of education outcomes and this is reflected in recent attainment data. Established improving trends in attainment data have been interrupted from 2020 onwards following the COVID-19 pandemic. National comparison data for 2021/22 is not yet available, however a number of national research reports have evaluated the likely impact of the pandemic on children and young people. Scottish Government's report '[Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#)' highlights the likelihood of:

- Negative impact on educational attainment for all age cohorts
- An increase in the poverty-related attainment gap due to differential experiences during the pandemic
- Negative effects on resilience, confidence, wellbeing and happiness of children and young people due to family pressures and uncertainty.

9. Children and young people's mental health suffered, along with their parents', the result of this being that resilience continues to be low and risk-taking behaviour has increased. Schools are reporting that mental health and wellbeing issues are impacting on attendance. Police, community safety and youth work staff are seeing young people's alcohol use and weapons-carrying increase, including in areas not traditionally associated with these types of risky behaviours. While other cohorts of young people are reporting mental health issues and less resilience.

10. A report to [Education Committee on 6 October 2022](#) highlighted the impact of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) on improving outcomes for children and young people. Head teachers used PEF funding in a variety of different ways to support learners in 2021-22. Almost all interventions were focused on mitigating the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged learners. All schools reported a number of challenges in implementing planned interventions during 2021-22, most notably the ongoing disruption to staffing caused by COVID-19 and high levels of pupil absence. Current attainment data indicates the ongoing impact of frequent disruption to children's education since session 2019-2020, for example the cumulative impact of disruption during P2, P3 and continuing into P4 has contributed to lower percentages of pupils in P4 attaining expected Curriculum for Excellence levels in literacy and numeracy in 2021-22.

11. The Education Department refreshed its guidance to schools on using PEF to tackle the poverty related attainment gap in May 2022.

12. Additionally, many community organisations that provide support to children and young people, older people, carers and our most vulnerable residents were unable to operate during the pandemic and many are struggling to become fully operational again.

13. In terms of the economic impact the research showed that out of work benefits remain substantially above pre-COVID, mostly for under 35s.

14. For businesses, footfall in town centres remains lower than pre-pandemic and it was predicted that economic recovery may be slower than is expected nationally, reflective of the local make-up of our economy which has several sectors vulnerable to weaker recovery (e.g. hospitality, construction, professional services) and the number of micro/sole traders.

15. The research expected to see a significant rise in referrals to money advice and welfare services, and this has been borne out with an exponential increase in referrals to the Money Advice and Rights Team.

16. The research noted key themes for response and recovery including ongoing practical and financial support; a focus on inequalities; bridging the attainment gap for children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and those from deprived areas; targeted mental health supports and delivering lower-level community activity and supports to improve wellbeing.

Wider Factors

17. In addition to the impact of the pandemic, other global factors are influencing an ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Weak earnings and income growth; in-work poverty and fragile work, combined with the increasing cost of fuel and goods, particularly food, have seen household finances squeezed. There are several contributing factors including post-lockdown surge in demand for fuel; a lack of supply of fuel due to lack of renewable generation; poor crop yields; a reduction in food production; Brexit; and the war in Ukraine.

18. UK wage growth in the last year has not been sufficient to keep pace with inflation, with economy-wide regular pay growth only 4.3% in the period between March and May 2022 compared to the same period in 2021.

19. The latest Bank of England forecast has inflation peaking at 13.1% in the fourth quarter of 2022, inflation is expected to remain high for the next two years. The Bank expects that inflation will not reach its 2% target until the third quarter of 2024. Supermarket inflation has increased by 10%, which is the highest rate in 13 years, with the average food bill increasing by £380 annually.

20. The [Resolution Foundation](#) has estimated that levels of Absolute Child Poverty could rise by 5% points in 2022/23. Glasgow City Region (GCR) has applied this projection to the latest estimates of Child Poverty (after housing costs) from 2020/21 showing that the number of children in poverty in East Renfrewshire could increase by 950. Despite having one of the lowest rates of child poverty in Scotland, there is a significant gap in standards of living amongst our poorest and wealthiest families, children who could be sitting next to one another in school, making the contrast all the more apparent.

21. [CPAG](#) estimates that by January 2023 over half of households in the UK (15 million) will be in fuel poverty which means spending over 10 per cent of net income on fuel. Again, GCR analysis indicates that for East Renfrewshire there could be 19,000 additional households in fuel poverty by January 2023.

22. It is evident from increasing benefit claims and people seeking debt advice and assistance that the situation has already reached crisis point for many, and it is anticipated that things will only worsen as we approach autumn and winter.

23. Both the Scottish Government for devolved matters and the UK Government on reserved matters have made announcements aimed at mitigating the impact of the cost of living crisis.

24. The recent [Programme for Government](#) has laid out a number of interventions to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis including increasing the Child Payment to £25 per week from November 2022 to all children under 16; a rent freeze and doubling the Fuel Insecurity Fund to £20 million. This, alongside the UK Government's recent announcement that it is capping

the unit cost of energy at a price equivalent to an average household paying £2,500 per annum will provide some relief but with the social and economic impacts of the pandemic still being felt by communities, a more local and targeted approach is required.

25. The Scottish Government has also recently launched a [Cost of Living campaign](#) aimed at supporting people across Scotland. This includes a new national website, which connects back to local councils, a marketing campaign which will run on various media channels and signposting advice and support. Libraries have been selected as a key distribution point for paper-based information. 150,000 public information leaflets will shortly be distributed across the public library network to cover library buildings and mobiles.

26. East Renfrewshire Council also has its own [cost of living webpage](#) and Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire are collating a partnership [list of community supports](#) that are available or local residents can call the VAER Community Hub on 0141 876 9555 for further details. Groups are also encouraged to add their own information to this list.

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Annex 2 - DETAILED COVID RECOVERY / COST OF LIVING PROPOSALS

Winter Direct Support			
Activity	2022/23	2023/24	Further detail on project
Top-up the government funded Family Bridging Payments in December (c.1605 children) & run a further (non-SG funded) payment in March 2023.	£321,000		Each payment cycle can impact c.1605 children in P1-S6 who receive Free School Meals as a result of low income. Aims to provide extra support to most vulnerable families by providing them with choice and dignity in their spending.
Provide a Winter Support payment for Clothing Grant recipients who are not eligible for the Family Bridging Payment above	£60,000		There are approximately 600 pupils on Clothing Grants but not Free School Meals. This direct payment would perhaps allow purchase of winter clothing and gives recipients choice and dignity in their spending.
Top-up Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) to fund payment of low-priority Community Care Grants .	£100,000		This project would assist up to 600 residents in setting up their home/improving current living conditions. A further £200,000 would be required to continue this provision into 2023/2024 if funds become available
Discretionary financial support payments for Carers , administered via East Renfrewshire Carers Centre.	£25,000		Provide a safety net/relief fund for carers who are struggling to pay fuel bills and other costs during winter months
Provide vouchers to vulnerable families , identified by Social Work, to purchase Christmas dinners	£10,000		This can relieve the financial pressures of Christmas for approx 200 families identified by Social Work. (N.B. there will be a separate Christmas gift appeal where staff, schools and local residents will have the opportunity to contribute to gifts for a much wider group of children living in low income households).
Donation to ' Back to School Bank ' in order to cope with increases in demand for school uniforms.	£5,000		Humanitarian COVID funding already given in 2022/23. This is a further requirement to meet rising demand and assist with winter provision. This is likely to assist c.50 children who do not meet criteria for Clothing Grants but where families are struggling with low income and in-work poverty.
Donation to support the East Renfrewshire Food Dignity Network to respond to additional emerging need.	£25,000		Allows network of food groups to meet emerging need in local communities. This is additional funding to that already provided to Thornliebank and Dunterlie Food Shares through Humanitarian COVID and LACER funds in 2022/23.
Total	£546,000	£0	

Advice and Support Services			
Activity	2022/23	2023/24	Further detail on project

Funding for one additional benefit advisor for East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£40,000	£40,000	780 residents/ clients a year would be supported, potentially allowing for additional Client Financial Gains of £455,520. This post will also help alleviate the burden on MART, as both service can assist each other through peak demands
Funding for one additional money advice and rights advisor in CAB		£40,000	Funded by LACER in 22/23. A new money adviser would allow for an additional 10 new debt clients per week to be seen face to face.
Total	£40,000	£80,000	

Support for Communities			
Activity	2022/23	2023/24	Further detail on project
Funding towards learning recovery in schools	£103,863	£103,863	Resources for 1 x Literacy Teacher (£34,621) and 1 x Numeracy Teacher (£34,621) and 1x 'Readiness to Learn' teacher (34,261). To improve outcomes for pupils in all secondary schools and primary schools who have been impacted by Covid-19 focusing recovery, learning loss and equity through early intervention for Literacy and Numeracy, specifically reading, writing, talking and listening, numeracy and mathematics.
Cost-of-Living public information campaign	£22,000		Includes targetted leaflet drop with details including support available, advisory services, Credit Unions and signposting to Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire's Community Directory.
Funding for distribution of small grants to organisations, to enhance their community activity/advice/drop-in provision as part of a ' Warm Spaces ' initiative.	£100,000	TBD	Will work closely with Third Sector to develop this initiative, which will build on existing activities and advice services across a range of sites throughout East Renfrewshire and identify gaps in provision. Outcomes will include less isolation and loneliness and improved mental health of vulnerable local people.
Participatory Budgeting Capacity Building and delivery of grant-making PB	£12,500	£187,500	This will fund a community capacity building post and deliver £150,000 of PB grant-making activity across 5 council wards, based on the most deprived localities.
Strategic Support to Third Sector		£50,000	Funded by Humanitarian COVID funding in 22/23. This will provide Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (VAER) with additional funding to support local groups to work together, access peer and professional support and advice. This is important for building a more sustainable pathway for provision when recovery funding has ended.
Pandemic Recovery: Strategic and Partnership Coordination	£11,000	£56,000	This will ensure strategic coordination of Council and wider community and partnership pandemic recovery, and access future funding opportunities.

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Data Analysis to help identify vulnerable households that are not accessing support	£50,000		This will combine national and local data to give us insight and intelligence on households who may not be accessing the support they need. This will enable us to target future communication and support.
Continue detached street work and diversionary activities into 23/24	£13,000	£50,000	This will continue current provision which was due to end in December 2022. It will help to reduce and prevent anti-social and risky behaviours around weapons, fire raising, alcohol, drugs and sexual activity by continuing the expanded youth work programme of detached street work at evening and weekends across East Renfrewshire.
Support for community recovery and renewal at Dunterlie Resource Centre via Corra Foundation	£12,000		Support to maintain delivery of resource centre activity to meet community demand.
Total	£324,363	£447,363	

Reducing Fuel Poverty			
Activity	2022/23	2023/24	Further detail on project
Extend Fuel Poverty Officer post to 23/24		£44,500	Funded by Humanitarian COVID/LACER in 22/23. This extends the Fuel Poverty post for 23/24. It works closely with CAB to maximise impact and co-ordinates with the work of Home Energy Scotland (HES). The aim is to offer immediate, impactful support to help clear debt from the energy meter and help to sustain payments.
Fund one Energy Advisor in CAB		£40,000	Funded by LACER/COVID funding in 22/23. Energy Advisor could target in-depth support to 15 clients per week.
Emergency & low-cost rapid response to fuel poverty	£50,000		Initial suggestion that Care & Repair service may be able to identify immediate supports which would reduce energy consumption in client homes (e.g. draught excluders, curtain linings etc), but this funding will be informed via Cost-of-Living working groups and close links to Fuel Poverty advisor and Home Energy Scotland.
Total	£50,000	£84,500	

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support			
Activity	2022/23	2023/24	Further detail on project
Mental Health & Well-being Programmes for young people	£12,500		Jointly provided by Community Learning & Development and Education. 40 young people supported through 10 week Mental Health and Wellbeing programme. Also 20 young people undertaking a 6 week Bereavement Support Programme. Funding also sought for 23/24 but on deferred list for later decision.
Funding for this financial year for two CEDAR (domestic violence) recovery programme posts	£35,000		Two posts could support up to 90 referrals of any women, child or young person suffering domestic abuse and help them to rebuild relationships and improve life chances, education, employment, health and wellbeing. This is a therapeutic programme which requires a tandem approach for mother and child. Funding also sought for 23/24 but on deferred list for later decision.
Funding for one Financial and Mental Wellbeing HR Officer	£20,000	£60,000	Could support 5000 employees through the upskilling of managers and targeted mental health support and provide practical financial wellbeing support through the signposting and engagement with experts both within and outside of the council.
Total	£67,500	£60,000	

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Winter Direct Support	£546,000	£0
Advice and Support Services	£40,000	£80,000
Support for Communities	£324,363	£447,363
Reducing Fuel Poverty	£50,000	£84,500

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support	£67,500	£60,000
Total by Year	£1,027,863	£671,863
Total	£1,699,726	

Annex 3) DEFERRED PROPOSALS - PENDING AVAILABILITY OF FURTHER FUNDING

Reconsider if further funds become available			
Activity	2022/23	2023/24	Further detail on project
Top-up Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) to fund payment of low-priority Community Care Grants across 23/24.		£200,000	This project would assist c.700 residents in setting up their home/improving current living conditions.
Provide one-off discretionary financial hardship payments , administered by advice services		£120,000	Funded by LACER in 22/23. Gives potential to make an additional 200 SWF payments and 300 Discretionary hardship payments in a year via the Money Advice & Rights Team (MART). (N.B. number of payments may be more if value of individual payments is lower).
Discretionary emergency fuel poverty payments , administered via advice services		£50,000	Funded by LACER in 22/23. Continues discretionary fund into 23/24. Assumes minimum of c.200 payments.
Fund Parental Employability Support Fund post into 23/24		£35,000	22/23 funded by Scottish Govt. Possible further funding may become available for 23/24. Based in MART. Supports 200 hundred clients a year, generating £75,000 income for residents and assisting residents to feel more confident about moving into work.
Funding to continue two CEDAR (domestic violence) recovery programme posts		£35,000	Continued funding for two posts to support up to 90 referrals of any women, child or young person suffering domestic abuse and help them to rebuild relationships and improve life chances, education, employment, health and wellbeing.
Mental Health & Well-being Programmes for young people across 23/24		£12,500	Jointly provided by Community Learning & Development and Education. 40 young people supported through 10 week Mental Health and Wellbeing programme. Also 20 young people undertaking a 6 week Bereavement Support Programme.
Funding for two posts for the Healthier Minds Hub (HSCP)	£18,500	£55,500	Funded separately in 22/23. Support an estimated 700 referrals per year to improve emotional wellbeing and hopefully prevent escalation into further services such as CAHMs or hospitalisation
Funding towards learning recovery in schools (additional posts to those approved above)	£103,863	£103,863	Resources for <u>a further</u> 1 x Literacy Teacher (£34,621) and 1 x Numeracy Teacher (£34,621) and 1x 'Readiness to Learn' teacher (34,261). To improve outcomes for pupils in all secondary schools and primary schools who have been impacted by Covid-19 focusing recovery, learning loss and equity through early intervention for Literacy and Numeracy, specifically reading, writing, talking and listening, numeracy and mathematics.

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Fund three Physical Activity & Health Advisor posts in ERCLT		£104,000	To increase the capacity of the ERCLT service to support 550 more clients per year to increase social support and confidence.
Additional Inclusive Support & ASN Short Breaks/Respite (HSCP)	£75,000	£225,000	Enable 2 Inclusive Opportunities Workers (temp. 12 month) to support families and young people struggling to find support and/or on edge of becoming accommodated. 300 Families will receive respite and support to give a break from caring duties.
Funding for Youth Participatory Budgeting in 23/24		£32,500	This can allow circa 15-20 youth groups to access funding and lead on their own recovery from the pandemic.
Support to Auchenback Resource Centre	£20,000		Auchenback Resource Centre have made a very recent approach for support due to loss of income as a result of COVID. Further work will be required to work with the ARC Board on their financial accounts and user numbers in order to determine scope of the request.
Further support for ' Back to School Bank '		£10,000	Further support for local uniform bank to support increases in demand from those experiencing in-work poverty,
Donation to Superkids (ASN charity) to replace end of funds from Children in Need.	£10,000	£10,000	Supports delivery of Sessional Staff hours for Additional Support Needs group on 2-nights a week
Total	£227,363	£993,363	

Total of projects deferred pending further funding becoming available	£227,363	£993,363
Overall Total including deferred	£2,920,452	

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