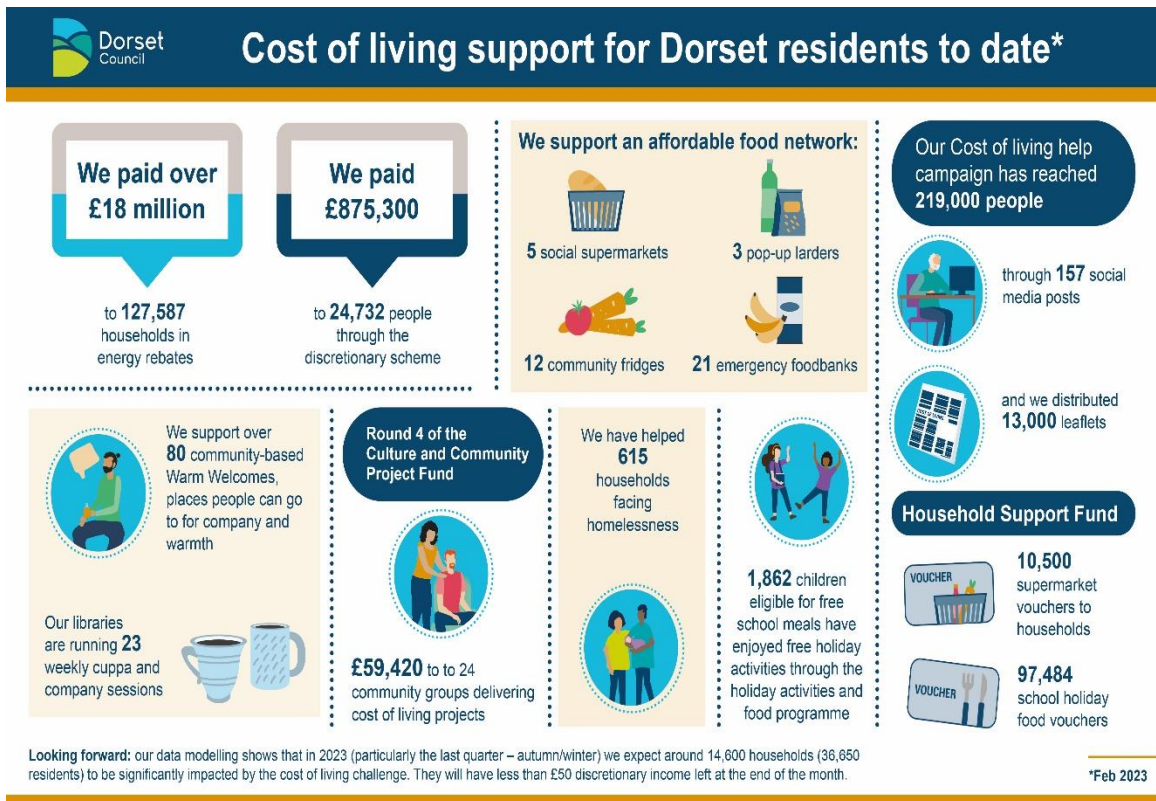


Appendix 4

1. Dorset Council support



1.1 Our Revenue and Benefits teams completed the administration of the energy rebate (via the council tax system) of a total of £18,238,050 to 127,587 households under the main scheme and a further £875,300 was awarded to 24,732 people via the discretionary scheme.

1.2 Dorset Council launched its Cost of Living communications campaign via the Dorset Together workstream on 15 June 2022 with a new [Cost of Living Help web page](#) and key messages to residents shared across all of our communication channels.

1.3 We have supported the development of community-based 'Warm Welcomes' (i.e. venues people can go to for company and warmth) in partnership with the Alacrify Foundation, Help and Kindness project. [An interactive map of venues is located on their website.](#) A full list of Warm Welcomes is in **Appendix 6.**

1.4 We have supported the development of a food network to ensure all residents have access to sustainable, affordable and where relevant, emergency food. The network is currently made up of 5 social supermarkets; 3 pop-up larders; 12 community fridges and 21 emergency foodbanks.

- 1.5 We published a 'pull out and keep' article in the Dorset Council News magazine, delivered to every household in November 2022. We have also distributed 13,000 printed leaflets and posters to town and parish councils, food banks, libraries, leisure centres, etc.
- 1.6 Dorset Council-run libraries are offering 'Cuppa and Company' sessions where members of the public are invited to drop in for a warm welcome and a free cuppa. [A list of the days and times can be found here.](#)
- 1.7 We re-focused round 4 of the Culture and Community Project Fund to prioritise applications from voluntary community sector organisations that directly support the cost-of-living challenge, including those who have developed community 'warm welcomes'. It distributed £59,420 to 24 organisations.
- 1.8 In October 2022, we launched the 'Steps to Save' campaign for Energy Saving Week to encourage people to reduce their energy use in order to save money and reduce environmental impact.