

Appendix 1 – Original Project Authorisation by Cabinet February 2023

Directorate	Project detail	Amount	Proactive / Reactive	Links with Council Plan Priorities
Children's services and Customer services	<p>1. Supermarket Vouchers.</p> <p>The HSF R3 has now given out 3000 vouchers in December and January 2023, however the demand far exceeded what we were able to offer from the Government funding. R4 has been confirmed for the spring. This funding will provide 2000 more vouchers and will be administered by our Customer Service teams throughout the year.</p>	<p>£380,000</p> <p>(£350k in vouchers + £30k Admin)</p>	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Driving economic prosperity
Housing / Climate and Ecology	<p>2. Invest in the Healthy Homes Dorset scheme.</p> <p>The £4m HUG2 funding we have applied for has set criteria and will benefit residents who are off grid only. We were successful in our application, this extra funding will complement this provision, offering opportunities for low income on-grid residents who meet the Healthy Homes Dorset requirements. Energy costs are rising, and while there is some support in place, investing in appropriate clean microgeneration schemes i.e., solar, can make a huge difference to people's lives. We have a readymade delivery portal (Healthy Homes Dorset) through which it can be administered.</p>	<p>£500,000</p>	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating sustainable developments and housing • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology • Driving economic prosperity

Revenue and Benefits.	<p>3. Discretionary Housing Payment allowance.</p> <p>Dorset Council has a fixed annual funding budget from Government and this financial assistance supports those struggling to pay their rent within an eligibility framework. Revenues and Benefits colleagues work closely with our Housing needs team. Payments often prevent eviction and allow short term financial support regarding meeting costs in this area which can assist residents meet other financial demands. We have exceeded our budget allocation this year as demand is increasing and we are monitoring this closely. Additional funding in this area will directly support some of the most vulnerable within an already established legal framework and administration so I would be keen to suggest an allocation to this fund if this additional funding is offered for FY 23-24.</p> <p>May prevent residents from being made homeless. Current homelessness enquiries are up by 31% (Appendix 2)</p>	£200,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council
Housing / Adults services	<p>4. Disabled Facilities Grant - Energy.</p> <p>This grant is given by Government each year to support adaptations to building for disabled residents. However, it does not include energy adaptations such as energy efficient boilers / heat pumps. This would support some of our most vulnerable residents reduce their bills by replacing old inefficient boilers / night storage heaters.</p>	£320,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating sustainable developments and housing • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

Communities and Partnerships	<p>5. Food security. Further support for sustainable and affordable food projects such as social supermarkets and foodbanks.</p>	£70,000	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology
Adults, Children's and Housing VCS – VCD/CA to deliver	<p>6. Small energy efficiency adaptations. LED lightbulbs, draught excluders, curtains and curtain rails, electric blankets / blankets / hot water bottles other practical small energy efficiency solutions for low-income families / older people. Links with assessments for slips and trips. Operated in partnership with already existing handyman services in VCD / CA or Age UK NSW</p>	£30,000	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council • Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology
Children's services	<p>7. Additional hours for early years children going to school in Sept 2023. Working families can be eligible for 30 hours childcare but this is not an option for everyone. Some parents may not be able to work because of the costs of childcare. This additional hours for the summer term will support parents to increase access to work and help to alleviate some of the impact of the cost of impact. This will also support early years development as these children were aged 1-2 years during the pandemic. Many have delays in their personal, social, and emotional development & communication and language. This will have a long-term impact on their learning in school.</p>	£100,000	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving economic prosperity • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

Communities and Partnerships	<p>8. Off Grid energy discretionary support vouchers (Oil & Calor Gas).</p> <p>Dorset has approximately 42,000 households off grid and using our modelled data sets, we predict circa 15% of these will have a low income of u£30,000 (6200 households). The government oil scheme has not paid out anything yet (proposed payments of £400 due February via their electric bills).</p> <p>This proposal would be for Citizens Advice to means test those residents in need who have off grid and have the facility to offer vouchers to offset the high price of purchasing the oil / calor gas.</p> <p>This will complement the Government scheme, whilst targeting those most in need.</p> <p>To be released in Winter 2023 dependant of further Government support.</p>	<p>£280,000</p> <p>(£250K support, £30,000 admin)</p>	Reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council
Children's services	<p>9. School readiness programme 'Ready to Thrive'.</p> <p>In Sept 2022, 3369 children started school, some without the necessary skills to start their learning journey in school.</p> <p>With this targeted initiative to provide intensive support involving Home Start & locality staff in the home and in the community for identified families with the aim for all children to achieve a Good Level of Development at the end of Reception impacting on long-term outcomes</p> <p>£20k per Children's Services locality</p>	<p>£120,000</p>	Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving economic prosperity • Creating stronger, healthier communities • Becoming a more responsive customer focused council

