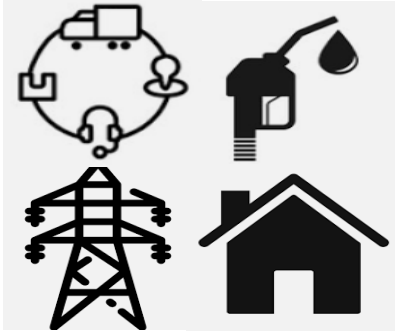


Cost of Living Crisis – Business Support

Louise Jones

Inflation impacts the cost of living



June 22
9.4%



July 22
10.1%



August
9.9%

Blackpool household income

24.7% live in income deprived households.

40.4% of children were entitled to free school meals (2021/22).

24.9% of working age residents are on universal credit.

Homelessness risk is increasing.

Blackpool household expenses

21.2% find meeting monthly bills heavy burden or are regularly in arrears.

16.8% report experiencing struggles with food insecurity.

8.4% reported experiencing hunger.

17% are fuel poor.

Current Council funded service provisions – help for your employees

- Council Tax Reduction Scheme Hardship Payments.
- Discretionary Support Scheme.
- Independent debt advice through a team of accredited debt advisors.
- Outreach workers to help ensure people have claimed the benefits they are entitled to.
- Provision of Personal Budgeting Support.
- Household Support 3 – funding from October 2022-March 2023.

Financial Inclusion Strategy

- Access to:



Basic financial services like a bank account.



Information needed to make informed financial decisions about money.



Affordable credit.



Emergency support at times of crisis.

- Ability to accumulate savings and build financial security.

Cost of Living Support

- Food – ensuring residents have access to food.
- Heat and Energy - ensuring residents have access to heat and eat at home.
- Health and Wellbeing – ensuring residents do not deprioritise health needs, such as visiting health professionals, picking up prescriptions due to financial pressures.
- Community – ensuring residents use the support available to them on their doorstep.
- Financial skills – ensuring advice, guidance and practical support for residents.

Next Steps: Joint working

Food Access

Community ideas	How businesses can support
Set up a neighbourhood swap shop and food parcel pick up location	Host the swap shop and act as liaison for food parcel pick up
Set up delivery vans for food parcels	Use existing business vans to support local collection and delivery service
Have lots of activities available locally – such as batch cooking lessons	Offer a evening or weekend activity for local people to learn new batch cook recipes