

## **WARM SPACES UPDATE**

**People & Places Advisory Committee - 29 November 2022**

**Report of:** Chief Officer - People & Places

**Status:** For Consideration

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** Warm Spaces Initiative

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** Community & Corporate Plan

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Dyball

**Contact Officer(s):** Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474

**Recommendation to People & Places Advisory Committee**

To note the report

### **Introduction and Background**

1. In April this year, SMT asked for a Financial Hardship Task and Finish officers group to be established to discuss the impact of the rise in cost of living to both our residents and our staff and what collective actions we can take to address this.
2. Many households are struggling with the cost of living, including the steep rise in the price of their heating and energy bills. Individuals and families are facing tough decisions about whether and when they may be able to afford to heat their home.
3. To try and help our residents navigate this challenging time, officers are working with the district's town councils and partner organisations to build a Warm Spaces directory. Warm Spaces are free, non-judgmental public places where people can go to get warm, save money on their heating costs, avoid social isolation, receive vital support and advice while staying as well as possible.
4. Our goal is to create a directory of all the places available to our residents across the public, private, health and voluntary sectors and to ensure this information is clearly marketed so everyone who is feeling the

cold knows where they can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company and some hot refreshments.

5. The directory will be available on the Council's website and we may consider organising paper copies. We are currently in the process of extending the project to all parish councils.
6. Where organisations are able to offer a Warm Space they will be asked to sign up to the Warm Space Charter and further information will be sent to organisations in regards to the following:
  - Understanding the Warm Space Charter
  - Things to consider in preparing a venue to receive visitors
  - The importance of confidentiality in a Warm Space and understanding the Cost of Living Crisis and how this affects people
  - Signposting/referring visitors to other services for advice, advocacy, and support
  - Communicating under different circumstances and managing difficult conversations.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

None if we offer when our office is open

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

None

### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

### Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment

### Wellbeing

This project supports wellbeing

## Conclusions

For the Committee to note the report

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 - Warm Spaces Form
	Appendix 2 - Warm Spaces Charter
<b>Background Papers</b>	
	None

**Sarah Robson**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - People & Places**