

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 17 November 2022

Labour Motion on Additional Council Support for Community Warm Spaces

To be proposed by Cllr Moss. Seconded by Cllr Dando.

Council:

1. Welcomes the creation of its Warm Welcome package as a first step - creating library “hublets”, a warm places map and an associated standards charter.
2. Notes that energy prices are more than double their autumn 2021 levels, inflation is now over 10% and threats of Covid and ‘flu cause great concern.
3. Notes that libraries are few and far between, and other public spaces can be very hard to reach, especially in rural areas, and are sometimes only open for a few hours a week.
4. Is aware that time is of the essence when it comes to reassuring the public that B&NES Council will keep them safe and warm this winter.
5. Recognises that Council must work smartly within its budgets
6. Understands that smart working on immediate needs is an investment that will save both financial and human costs later.

Council therefore:

7. Resolves to draw on the significant experience it has, from the pandemic and from housing refugees from the illegal Ukraine war, to leverage B&NES’ unparalleled local scale to set up a community organisation network, whose goal is to get as close as possible to the following:
 - 7.1 Work with partners to ensure that vulnerable residents have the shortest possible journey to a warm space
 - 7.2 Help residents access community transport that enables access and safe travel home
 - 7.3 Wherever possible, place other useful facilities e.g. food banks, on-site
 - 7.4 Build community organisations’ capabilities and capacity: e.g. help with volunteer training / DBS checks; refreshment facilities; insurance; secure fuel storage, risk assessments and more

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

7.5 Provide secure and hygienic facilities which take Covid and 'flu into consideration, as well as facilities outside of office hours.

8 Recommends that this network's first meeting should be no later than 30 November.

Council further:

9 Appreciates the scale of the task at hand but also recognises its moral duty to do all it can to protect all vulnerable residents in our community.

10 Agrees to take this action to work collaboratively cross-partnership and cross-party, and in so doing, to help save lives this winter.

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