

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 Romero.

Council:

1. Welcomes the creation of its Warm Welcome package which focus on the 3 council run libraries, and community places as warm spaces.
2. Thanks all those organisations and businesses who have already come forward to offer warm spaces.
3. Thanks all those community organisations, parish and town councils are already working to support residents with the cost of living crisis.
4. Welcomes the creation of the on-line map which is regularly updated with new warm places
5. Welcomes the focus in the standards charter on respect and dignity, as well as warmth, and that all potential warm spaces must comply with this charter.
6. Welcomes the £250 grant available for registered warm spaces or for activities within the space.
7. Believes that more can be done to encourage more places to become warm spaces, and for more places to offer more hours for community use.
8. 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.
9. Is aware that time is of the essence when it comes to reassuring the public that B&NES Council and local communities will keep them safe and warm this winter.
10. Recognises that Council must work smartly within its budgets.
11. Understands that smart working on immediate needs is an investment that will save both financial and human costs later.

- *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.*

12. recognises that significant experience has been gained in the council and communities' response to the pandemic, and from housing refugees.

13. recognises the value of partner working, which is exemplified in creation of the Community Wellbeing Hub, comprising of private business, the third sector and the council.

Council therefore resolves to continue to

14. Work with partners to ensure that vulnerable residents have the shortest possible journey to a warm space.

15. Help residents access community transport that enables access and safe travel home.

16. Wherever possible, place other useful facilities e.g. food banks, on-site

17. to signpost residents to help and support as necessary.

18. Build community organisations' capabilities and capacity: e.g. help with volunteer training / DBS checks; refreshment facilities; insurance; secure fuel storage, risk assessments and more.

Council further:

19. Will retain oversight of this network with timely 2way communication.

20. 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 by continuing to work with partners and our communities

21. Agrees to continue to work collaboratively cross-partnership and crossparty, and in so doing, to help save lives this winter.

22. Will continue to look at what additional support including funding could be made available to ensure warm spaces are available across our region and across a range of days and times.

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