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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>22 September 2022</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Democratic Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/079/22/CM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Colin MacDonald</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712113</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>The Cost of Living Emergency – Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, relative to the cost of living emergency in terms of Standing Order 22.
- 1.2 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire.

**Iain Strachan**  
**Head of Legal & Democratic Services**

## The Cost of Living Emergency

## Appendix 1

Inverclyde Council recognises there is a cost of living emergency.

Council notes that the cost of living has increased markedly over the past year driven by the increase in the wholesale cost of oil and gas, the increase in demand following the public health emergency, market failure in the energy market and the ongoing impacts of Brexit and the war in Ukraine.

We have seen record highs and increases in the everyday essentials our constituents need. Inflation has hit a 40 year high of 10.1%; grocery prices have increased 8.8% since July; energy prices increased 54% in April - the price cap has just been increased from £1,971 to £3,549 (in October); fuel prices have increased, on average 36.5p per litre year-on-year; wages are, in real terms, 3% lower. People in Inverclyde have never had such pressure on their day-day living costs.

Inverclyde already had some of the worst poverty rates in Scotland before the current crisis began. This has never been okay but we are now facing the worst financial crisis for individuals in over 40 years. Action is needed now. Without action, people will starve or freeze to death.

The cost of living crisis is not only impacting on local households, it is also impacting significantly on the Council directly, Inverclyde Leisure, local businesses, third sector organisations and community groups.

Council notes that while the UK and Scottish Governments, and the Council itself, have been taking measures to address the impact of the cost of living more needs to be done.

With the Council facing around £15m of cuts over the next two years our capacity to support the local community is extremely limited. The Council calls upon Scottish Government to ensure a real terms increase in their funding to enable the provision of lifeline community services.

Nevertheless Council instructs officers to bring forward proposals to the Policy and Resources Committee and other relevant committees as a matter of urgency on what more the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership can do to support our community through this crisis including looking at having a 'cost of living hubs' on their websites and promote this on the Inverclyde Council and HSCP websites.

Further the Council requests that the Leaders/Spokesperson of each political group agree to write jointly to the new Prime Minister and the First Minister to highlight our concerns and to ask both Governments to take immediate and decisive action to ease the cost of living impact on the Inverclyde community including reviewing the local government settlement and energy price cap.

**Moved:** Councillor Natasha McGuire

**Seconded:** Councillor Clocherty