

	<b>N.B</b>	<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>Coventry</b>
<b>Increase income</b>			
Pay a living wage		Accredited; city-wide commitment	Steps towards LW taken, incl. external promotion; not accredited LW employer
Skills development & career opportunities		<a href="#">Various initiatives, incl. PURE project</a>	<a href="#">Coventry Job Shop</a>
Driving social value in procurement		SV policy in place; B'ham Business Charter for Social Responsibility	SV & Sustainability policy in place
Maximising benefits take-up		Part of CoL support (see next table); BCC funded CAB welfare advice service	Part of CoL support (see next table); embedded online benefits calculator
<b>Reduce costs</b>	<i>CoL support landing pages &gt;&gt;&gt;</i>	<a href="https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport">https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport</a>	<a href="https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cost-living-wellbeing-support">https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cost-living-wellbeing-support</a>
Rent controls	<i>DWP discretionary housing payments (locally managed)</i>		
Council tax relief	<i>DLUHC discretionary council tax rebate / relief (locally managed)</i>		
Food costs	<i>DWP / HMRC Cost of Living Payment; DWP Household Support Fund;</i>	Local Welfare Provision policy & (crisis) fund; Food Justice Network & wider food strategy	Signposting to food banks, free school meals & Healthy Start vouchers
Emergency support for energy costs	<i>BEIS Energy Bills Support scheme &amp; winter fuel payments</i>	<a href="#">Various initiatives / resources &amp; Warm Welcome Spaces</a>	Keeping Coventry Warm scheme
Costs of public transport	<i>TfWM remit</i>		

<b>Other mitigating actions</b>			
Affordable housing	Part of housing strategy; being refreshed	Part of housing (& homelessness) strategy	Part of (previous) housing strategy & homelessness prevention strategy; part of the Black Country Core Strategy
Energy efficient housing	3 Cities Retrofit programme; public sector housing retrofit scheme starting in Castle Vale; green grants; links to BCC Climate Emergency taskforce	3 Cities Retrofit programme; 'deep retrofit' of homes in Foleshill from Sustainable Warmth Competition; Green Homes Grant	Winter Warmth Support Scheme; Greener Homes, Green Lives (retrofit project)
Advocating better benefits processes			
Enabling community advice services	Funded community advice; training programmes on benefits for community partners under development		4-5 Community Empowerment Hubs being set up; welfare benefits training (for organisations)
Supporting through faith settings	BCC Faith Settings toolkit and embedding partnerships		
Sustainable funding for local government	<i>Political spa</i>		

Dudley	Sandwell	Solihull	Walsall
Steps towards LW taken, incl. being a Real Living Wage employer since 2019; not accredited LW employer			
<a href="#">Various initiatives, incl. commissioned wraparound employment support and the Black Country Impact programme</a>	<a href="#">Think Sandwell; Bridges programme; Family Matters programme; and Black Country Impact</a>	<a href="#">Solihull for Success</a>	<a href="#">Walsall Works; Black Country Impact</a>
<a href="#">SV policy in place, aligned with the Dudley Deal</a>	<a href="#">SV policy in place; link to Think Sandwell local business support platform</a>	SV policy in place	<a href="#">SV Charter and policy in place</a>
Part of CoL support (see next table); signposts to calculators & support services	Part of CoL support (see next table); Welfare Rights team	Part of CoL support (see next table)	Part of CoL support (see next table)
<a href="https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/">https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/</a>	<a href="https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/costoflivinghelp">https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/costoflivinghelp</a>	<a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help</a>	<a href="https://go.walsall.gov.uk/benefits_and_cost_of_living_support">https://go.walsall.gov.uk/benefits_and_cost_of_living_support</a>
Signposting to food banks and related initiatives	<a href="#">Various initiatives, incl. Local Welfare Provision scheme &amp; Food Action Plan</a>	Signposting to food banks and related initiatives	Walsall Crisis Support Scheme; signposting to food banks and related initiatives
Discretionary energy support fund (council tax rebate); Dudley Energy Advice Line	Council Tax Energy Rebate; Warm Spaces	Discretionary crisis fund; Winter Warmth Campaign via Age UK Solihull	Various retrofit grants incl. Boiler Upgrade Scheme and crisis funding

<a href="#">Partnership in place to provide affordable rented homes for young people; Black Country Core Strategy</a>		Part of housing strategy; Black Country Core Strategy	Black Country Core Strategy
	Sustainable Warmth Grants (retrofit); 'deep retrofit' of homes in Elmdon from Sustainable Warmth Competition	Walsall Health Through Warmth scheme; BEIS social decarbonisation funding	3 Cities Retrofit programme
	VCSE Development Reserve		
<i>Work led by Leaders and Cabinets</i>			

Wolverhampton	WMCA
	Accredited living wage employer
<a href="#">Wolves at Work (WorkBox); Black Country Impact</a>	Adult Education Budget (including Community Learning funding) & National Skills Fund delivery Employment support: Connecting Communities; Thrive into Work (IPS model) Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs) with guaranteed interviews WM Apprenticeship Levy Transfer fund
<a href="#">SV charter &amp; embedded approach; Wolverhampton Pound</a>	Social value policy in place
Part of CoL support (see next table); local helpline	
<a href="https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/community/cost-of-living-support">https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/community/cost-of-living-support</a>	
Signposting to food banks and free school meals	
Council tax rebate (energy payment); warm spaces (with shuttle service)	Warmer Homes West Midlands
	Proposals in response to CoL crisis under development (incl. potential extensions of concessions) – awaiting approval and subject to funding

	WMCA definition of affordable housing as 35% or less of the average gross earnings of the lowest quarter of wage earners in the local area (as opposed to 80% of market value)
	WM Design Charter incl. Zero Carbon Homes Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator Retrofit projects incl. private homes & social housing
	Opposition to fragmented and short-term funding streams with rigid rules articulated as part of Trailblazer Devolution Deal