

Appendix A - Birmingham City Partnership Board Asks of Government

Theme	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term
Financial support and advice	Provide urgent and meaningful financial support to those in greatest need. This should be direct to households most affected by the cost-of-living crisis, and, to save on set-up and admin costs, should be administered through existing structures and routes (e.g. established Household Support Fund and Benefits systems).		
Financial support and advice	Improve access to financial information and support, for example in relation to winter fuel payments.		
Financial support and advice	Develop mechanisms of direct support for key workers in essential sectors e.g. transport subsidies, food vouchers, targeted grant schemes		
Support to businesses	Immediately review and reform the Shortage Occupation List to reduce wage pressures and fill vacancies.		
Support to businesses	Provide Ofgem with more power to strengthen regulation of the energy market, supporting businesses that are currently struggling under energy cost pressures.		
Support to businesses	Temporarily extend VAT relief for hospitality and non-essential retailers, given that many are still struggling with debts accrued during the pandemic.		

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Support to businesses		Fund leadership Peer to Peer support such as the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Economic Partnership (GBSLEP) Growth Hub's Women Business Leaders programme.	
Support to businesses		Fund grassroots intervention schemes to help businesses mitigate rising cost of energy prices. For example, capital grants of up to £10,000 towards the cost of installing energy saving measures in businesses and organisations.	
Support to businesses		Continuity of funding for Growth Hub service into 2023/24 (£500,000 base). This provides support to around 1,700 businesses (figures from 21/22). Shift focus to establishing needs of businesses and enabling energy action to be taken.	
Support to businesses			Continue with meaningful reform of the business rates system including reducing the level of the multiplier, removing plant and machinery from the ratings system and simplifying the appeals process.
Employment and skills		Provide skills support for SMEs in the form of wage subsidies for broader age groups linked to apprenticeships, targeting those adversely affected by the cost-of-living crisis (socio-demographics/young people), supporting/subsidising the cost of travel to attend training schemes	

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Employment and skills		Support local initiatives to encourage local people to see starting a business as a feasible option, increasing the levels of 'start-up skills' in the population.	
Employment and skills		Tackle youth unemployment by encouraging young person mentoring (both traditional and reverse mentoring) by creating a bank of mentors and mentees.	
Employment and skills		Expand and support the use of Social Value Guarantees, ensuring developers/investors employ and train local people paying at least living wages.	
Employment and skills		Provide skills support for SMEs in the form of wage subsidies for broader age groups linked to apprenticeships, targeting those adversely affected by the cost-of-living crisis (socio-demographics/young people), supporting/subsidising the cost of travel to attend training schemes	
Employment and skills		Expansion of Commonwealth Games/Generation 22 Legacy programmes to turn volunteering opportunities into careers through more investment.	
Employment and skills			Build on existing programmes to assist young people furthest removed from the labour market to create enterprising opportunities in future facing areas.

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Employment and skills			Develop retrofitting skills programmes at scale, funding green skills and retrofitting interventions to 'kickstart' the retrofit market and get more people trained for the jobs of the future.
Voluntary and community sector	Provide targeted financial support for charities and voluntary organisations that are on the frontline of supporting people through the crisis (such as advice agencies and housing services), and those who are 'mopping up' the spill over effects of the pressures caused by the crisis (such as domestic abuse shelters and violence prevention charities).		
Voluntary and community sector		Ensure that charities and voluntary organisations are included in plans to support business/private sector entities.	
Voluntary and community sector		Consider how to provide locally commissioned volunteer organisations with appropriate 'freedoms and flexibilities' in discharging their contractual obligations to tailor interventions in the light of emerging cost-of-living pressures.	

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Children and young people			Work with young people's organisations and wider communities to co-design solutions for those young people impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. Young people should be engaged and involved in the design of youth crisis services and the decisions that impact their lives. The Power of Youth Charter provides a framework for organisations to involve young people to shape decisions and make a positive difference.
Health		Develop a mechanism for providing funding for additional energy costs associated with the issue and running of electronic medical equipment and support devices provided for use in people's homes.	
Health		Provide financial support or transport subsidies for frequent 'health travellers' such as those undergoing cancer treatment, those with renal conditions and others with chronic health conditions.	
Health			Invest in remote and telecare health services, increasing patient choice and reducing travel and incidental costs for primary care and outpatients.

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Police and crime		Ensure that key services, including the police, receive emergency support to deal with the rise in energy bills and inflation. Police forces stand to lose £100m across UK due to these rises, and the West Midlands Police (WMP) £5m.	
Police and crime			We believe the cost-of-living crisis may result in a rise in crime, due to desperation, including issues like increased risk of child exploitation, shoplifting and potential substance misuse issues, meaning there is a need for at least an additional 1000 police officers in the West Midlands, in addition to those officers that are part of the “National Police Uplift”, to ensure that WMP forces are fully resourced.
Police and crime			We foresee a rise in domestic abuse and exploitation such as sex for rent and survival sex work. There is a need to increase investment in women’s refuge services and facilities, and victims’ services and facilities.

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Local government			Move to a position of providing multi-year settlements to allow councils to adequately plan and deliver. This should include reducing the multiplicity of different funding pots and endless rounds of bidding with a focus on enhancing core revenue funding. This should include discussions relating to financial support for councils in dealing with the immediate challenges brought about by the cost-of-living emergency.
Local government			Turbocharge the Levelling Up agenda by providing the powers and resources to truly rebalance growth in the UK.
Local government			Engage local government is engaged as an equal partner in tackling the big strategic challenges facing the country, whether that be reducing carbon emissions with the urgency that is required, boosting productivity or the future funding of adult social care.