**Let's Talk Money continues to provide local residents with money worries through the introduction of a Let’s Talk Money mobile App**

The Let’s Talk Money service for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole residents launched in October 2020, during the height of the pandemic, providing free and friendly help for those with money worries.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to have a major impact on people's lives and livelihoods. At the close of 2020, it was estimated that 1 in 3 households have lost income because of coronavirus and 7.3 million people are behind on bills with 1 in 6 unable to afford food during the pandemic.

With personal debt continuing to rise and the impending end of support schemes such as the Government’s furlough scheme, credit and mortgage holidays, more people every day are becoming increasingly worried about money.

Since the launch of the Let’s Talk Money campaign in October 2020, Citizens Advice Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole has helped over 1000 people to access support with managing their money. Due to restrictions during the pandemic, much of this support has been provided over the phone or via email.

Today sees the launch of the Let’s Talk Money mobile App, created in partnership with Citizens Advice Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole, CityFibre and local software company V88. The new App provides guidance and tips for anyone struggling with money and is available via all mobile browsers.

People accessing the App can also contact Let’s Talk Money guiders directly who will provide judgement-free advice or help support you towards accessing the right service for your individual circumstances.

Commenting on the Let’s Talk Money App, Lucy Cooper, City Manager for Bournemouth at CityFibre, said: “This initiative is a great example of how technology can be leveraged to solve a wide range of challenges. We’re very pleased to be supporting such a forward-thinking project that will make a tangible contribution to the community and to residents’ lives. Throughout the pandemic, we have seen just how critical technology is to our day-to-day lives. It has not only enabled us to keep working and stay connected with friends and family, but it has enabled services to pivot and find new ways to provide key services.”

Mark Brooks, Partner at V88 Group said “"We’ve greatly enjoyed working with the team at Citizens Advice Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole to bring their vision for the Let’s Talk App to reality. It’s an exciting first phase that we hope will form the foundation for a platform to help those individuals struggling in the current adverse climate. We hope it’ll make a very positive contribution."

If you have money worries – you are not alone. The sooner you get in touch, the quicker you can access help, so please do contact this service.

Instructions to download the Let’s Talk Money App can be found by visiting:

[www.citizensadvicebcp.org.uk/lets-talk-money](http://www.citizensadvicebcp.org.uk/lets-talk-money)

Notes to editor:

* Let’s Talk Money is a collaboration between BCP Council, BCP Homeless Partnership, Citizen’s Advice BCP and representatives of businesses, charities, faith groups, education and health services whose shared commitment is to end homelessness across the area by ensuring everyone has a safe place to live that they can call home.
* Citizens Advice commissioned ICM unlimited to conduct a survey of a representative sample of 6,004 adults living in the UK. The survey took place between 12th and 25th November. The sample has been weighted by age, gender, region, social grade, work status and ethnicity to be representative of the UK adult population. The figure of 7.3 million people behind on bills was calculated by Citizens Advice on the basis that 14% of the weighted sample reported being behind on bills. This was multiplied by 52,673,433, the UK adult population, to arrive at a figure of 7.3 million people.
* CityFibre is currently investing £35m in rolling out a citywide full fibre network in Bournemouth as part of its Gigabit City Investment Programme.
* V88 are based in Poole on the UK’s south coast. They specialise in high quality, bespoke mobile apps using modern web technologies, for any size business from Startup to Enterprise. For more information visit www.v88.co.uk.