

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	15 April 2024
Decision Maker	Mark Fitton – Strategic Director for People
Brief Description Of Decision	To approve the use of the Household Support Fund 1 st April 2024 to 30 th September 2024 for Worcestershire.
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>Following on from the announcement of a further Household Support Fund scheme in the Spring Budget on the 6th March 2024 and formal confirmation being sent by the Department of Work and Pensions on 26th March 2024, the following proposals have been developed in conjunction with key delivery partners including; District Council lead officers, Worcestershire Advice Network and Act on Energy.</p> <p>There are only very minor changes to the guidance for the latest round of funding, therefore this new fund implementation will remain broadly in line with the delivery plan from the last financial year with small seasonal related variations.</p> <p>The total grant allocation is £3,949,139.19 over six months and the activity breakdown is proposed as follows:</p> <p>Food - £1,696,904 Holiday food vouchers in half term and summer holidays for children in receipt of free school meals, plus an additional allocation to district councils specifically for food.</p> <p>Energy - £870,000 Continue the energy support scheme through Act on Energy for support with energy costs, energy debt and new heating systems for eligible households. Also extend the Warmth on Prescription programme working with primary care partners to identify eligible patients that would benefit from energy support. The Money Management Advisors employed through the Citizen’s Advice in the county will also be extended for a further six months supporting eligible residents with energy debts.</p> <p>Food/Energy/Wider essentials – £315,000 Continue the Post Office voucher scheme delivered through Worcestershire Advice Network, including support for low-income households for pensioners, carers, those residents with a disability. Cash vouchers of £75 - £225 are available depending on number of</p>

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	<p>criteria met. New Pension Credit recipients will also receive a one off £75 Post Officer cash voucher.</p> <p>District Councils funding – £899,139 Plans for district spend will be submitted in April which will cover a range of activity across all eligible spend areas including; food banks, vouchers schemes, social welfare schemes and voluntary sector grants.</p> <p>Administration, staffing and contingency - £168,096.19 Costs towards staff support, contract and administration costs for schemes and contingency funding.</p> <p>District Council allocations are as follows, and calculated using the Index of Multiple Deprivation figures, (as agreed by District Council Chief Executives in February 2023).</p> <table data-bbox="517 835 877 1066"> <tr> <td>Bromsgrove</td> <td>£96,573.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malvern Hills</td> <td>£132,645.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Redditch</td> <td>£185,964.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcester</td> <td>£168,543.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wychavon</td> <td>£130,168.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wyre Forest</td> <td>£185,245.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£899,139.00</td> </tr> </table>	Bromsgrove	£96,573.50	Malvern Hills	£132,645.00	Redditch	£185,964.00	Worcester	£168,543.00	Wychavon	£130,168.00	Wyre Forest	£185,245.50	Total	£899,139.00
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<p>Alternative Options Considered And Rejected</p>	<p>Do nothing – if a delivery plan isn't considered and approved, the funding from the Department of Work and Pensions would not be available to support Worcestershire residents in relation to the increase cost of living.</p> <p>No other options were considered following engagement with lead partners. The currently delivery plan has been agreed as the most effective way to support residents within the short delivery period of six months.</p>														
<p>Joint Equality, Public Health, Data Protection and Sustainability Impact Assessments carried out</p>	<p>The impact assessments completed as part of the Cabinet report for Household Support Fund delivery in 2023/24 approved on 30th March 2023 remain current and up to date, as the delivery activity remains the same.</p>														
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted</p>	<p>None</p>														
<p>Signature</p>	<p>Mark Fitton</p>														

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Reference	<i>05/2024</i>
Delegation Check	<p>The March 2023 Cabinet report for HSF funding contained the following delegation.</p> <p>“b) Delegates the implementation of the delivery of the Household Support Fund including the allocation of any extension to the grant within the terms applicable to it, to the Strategic Director of People in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities and in liaison with the Chief Finance Officer.”</p> <p>The ROED is made under that delegation for the 2024/25 extension of the Fund. The required consultation with the CMR has taken place and the CFO supports the decision.</p>
Legal/Finance Check	<i>TP/PR</i>