

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	24 JANUARY 2022	9
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE - HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT GRANT			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report details a request from the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, held on 4 January 2022, for approval of funding from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant.

In September 2021, the government announced that vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500 million support fund to help them with essentials over the winter period. The funding, named the household support grant, will be available until 31 March 2022 inclusive.

The grant will help those who need it most and will be distributed through small payments to support vulnerable households in meeting daily costs such as food, clothing and utilities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to approve a revenue budget increase of up to £150,000 in 2021/22, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

MeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1244/Committee/19/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx" [Environment, Health and Housing Committee - 4 January 2022](#)

It was RESOLVED:

1. To note the position with respect to the allocation and spend to date of the Household Support Grant which has been allocated under the Chief Executive's delegations pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To approve the projected spending against projects identified within this report; and
3. To recommend to Finance and Democracy Committee a revenue budget increase of up to £150,000 in 2021/22 fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√

Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUNDING

1. In September 2021, the government announced that vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500 million support fund to help them with essentials over the winter period. The funding will be available until 31 March 2022 inclusive.
2. The funding was awarded to Lancashire County Council as the upper tier authority, who made an indicative allocation to Fylde Council of £150,000. The money was received in late December 2021.
3. The grant will directly help those who need it most and will be distributed through small payments to support vulnerable households meet daily costs such as food, clothing and utilities.
4. The grant should be used primarily to support households in the most need of food, energy and water bills; however, it can also be used with wider essential costs such as boiler service/repair and the purchase of equipment such as fridges and freezers.
5. At least 50% of the available funding must be allocated for vulnerable households with children, and the delivery of the funding can be made through several differing routes including vouchers, making direct provision of food, or issuing grants to third parties.
6. Funds should be spent, or committed, before 31 March 2022 and cannot be held over for future usage.

EMERGENCY DECISION MAKING POWERS USE

7. Due to the need to commence the scheme as soon as possible, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, together with the Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee on 29th November 2021, invoked emergency powers to initiate the grant scheme in anticipation that it would be fully funded going forward.

FYLDE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT SCHEME

8. A full list of the services offered under this grant scheme is shown at Appendix A and are consistent with the primary purpose of the funding awarded with support available, by application, from both the council's Housing Team together with the Fylde Coast Citizens Advice Bureau.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

9. The Council's financial regulations, which form part of the constitution, require funded budget increases to be approved. The level of approval depends on the expenditure. Increases of up to £50,000 may be approved by the Chief Financial Officer (following consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and Democracy Committee). Increases of between £50,000 and £250,000 require approval by the Finance and Democracy Committee, following consideration by the relevant programme committee.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	To request the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £150,000 in 2021/22 to be met in full of the government grant funding stream as detailed in the report. Spend against the budget has been approved in advance, utilising the Chief Executive's emergency decision-making powers.
Legal	The council needs to put in place accountable and transparent arrangements in relation to its decisions on how the fund is used.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

Attached Documents

Appendix A - Fylde Household Support Scheme