

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	COUNCIL	4 JULY 2022	7

FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE - HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

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 14 June 2022, for approval of funding from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Fund.

In March 2022, the government announced that the grant had been extended to support vulnerable houses across the country to help them with essentials. This was extended again in May 2022, to March 2023, bringing the total amount of funding to £1.5 billion.

Fylde Council has been notified by Lancashire County Council (LCC) that it would receive £270,000 in the next tranche of Household Support funding. The Council has been requested to direct this spending to support the elderly. It has been requested that a large proportion of the grant is directed at supporting OAP's who are eligible for the council tax support scheme. It is anticipated that this will be a common payment to OAP's pan-Lancashire. The rationale for the support being directed in this manner is that families and individuals are being supported by LCC giving free school meal vouchers across the school holidays, from April to September. The funding must be spent in a balanced way, according to a formula, to provide support across the elderly, families and individuals.

RECOMMENDATION

Council to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of up to £270,000 in 2022/23, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Fund.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Environment, Health and Housing Committee - 4th 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.

Finance and Democracy Committee - 24 January 2022

Following a number of members speaking in support of the grant, it was RESOLVED 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.

Environment, Health and Housing Committee - 14 June 2022

It was RESOLVED to:

1. Note the position; and
2. Request that Council approve a fully funded budget increase in the sum of £270,000 for household support funding.

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. This funding was provided to LCC who, in turn, passported £150k to Fylde Council. The grant was to 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. The funding was directed at individuals and families irrespective of age.
2. The details of how the fund was allocated in the first tranche of funding was considered at the Environment, Health and Housing Committee when it met on 14th June 2022.
3. Fylde Council has been notified that it is to receive a further £270,000 of funding from LCC. In terms of this second tranche of funding, the council has been requested to direct this spending on supporting the elderly. It is requested that a large proportion of the grant is directed at supporting OAP's who are eligible for the council tax support scheme, who make up a significant portion of the population in Fylde. It is anticipated that this will be a common payment to OAP's pan-Lancashire. The rationale for the support being directed in this manner is that families and individuals are being supported this time around by LCC giving free school meal vouchers across all the school holidays from April to September. It is anticipated that the support for the elderly will amount to circa £206,010.
4. It is intended that the balance of the funding will be passported to Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Fylde Food Banks, to allow them to continue to support families and individuals in need.
5. A further bid has also been submitted, with the aim of allowing Fylde Council to continue working more widely with Fylde CAB, Age UK and foodbanks.
6. At the aforementioned meeting of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, the figure was incorrectly reported as £276,000. The correct figure of £270,000 has been reflected in this report.
7. LCC have confirmed that they are currently in the process of reviewing the information provided by the Deputy Chief Executive to support the further bid and will be in a position to provide an update by mid-July, which may lead to a larger fully funded revenue budget increase.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance	The report recommends to Council that they approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of up to £270,000 in 2022/23, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Fund, as detailed in the report.
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Legal	The council needs to put in place accountable and transparent decision-making powers.
Community Safety	There are no implications.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications.

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