



Annual Meeting of the Council

Wednesday, 8 May 2024 at 14:00
Lowther Pavilion, West Beach, Lytham, FY8 5QQ

TO: THE MEMBERS OF FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR CHERYL LITTLE
DEPUTY MAYOR – COUNCILLOR PETER ANTHONY

Councillors

F. Andrews
T. Armit
M. Bamforth
E. Bickerstaffe
J. Brickles
D. Buckley
K. Buckley
E. Collins
P. Collins
C. Dixon
M. Evans
K. Farrington
S. Fazackerley MBE
J. Gardner
E. Gaunt
G. Goodman JP
N. Griffiths

Councillors

G. Harrison
P. Hayhurst
K. Henshaw JP
P. Hodgson
J. Kirkham
J. Ledger
M. Lee
M. Morris
E. Nash
J. Nixon
S. Pitman
R. Redcliffe
A. Redfearn
V. Settle
W. Taylor
T. Threlfall
V. Willder
M. Withers



At the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor (Councillor Cheryl Little) will occupy the Chair. The Deputy Mayor, (Councillor Peter Anthony) will sit in the Chair on the right of the Mayor.

Prayers will be offered by Peter Watson.

Mayor's Welcome

The Mayor (Councillor Cheryl Little) will welcome everyone to the meeting and take the opportunity to speak about her year in office.

BUSINESS

1. To elect a Mayor for the Borough of Fylde for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Mover: Councillor Matthew Lee

Seconder: Councillor Peter Collins

“That Councillor Karen Henshaw be elected Mayor of the Borough of Fylde, for the ensuing Municipal Year”.

Upon the Resolution being passed, the newly elected Mayor will proceed to the dais and will there make her Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Mayor of the Borough of Fylde.

The Mayor's Attendant will then escort the newly elected Mayor to the retiring room accompanied by the retiring Mayor, the Chief Executive, and the Mover and Seconder of the Resolution, where the newly elected Mayor will be invested with the Robe and Chain of Office and so escorted will return to the Main Hall and occupy the Chair.

The Mayors Consort, Mr Howard Henshaw ADK Borneo, will be invested with the Consorts' Chain of Office.

2. To appoint a Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Mover: The Mayor, Councillor Karen Henshaw

Seconder: Councillor Noreen Griffiths

“That Councillor Joanne Gardner, be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde, for the ensuing Municipal Year”.

Upon the Resolution being passed, the newly elected Deputy Mayor will proceed to the dais to make her Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Fylde and thereafter will be invested with the Chain of Office.



The Deputy Mayor's Consort Mr Dan Gardner will be invested with the Badge of Office.

The Mayor will present to the immediate past Mayor (Councillor Cheryl Little) an Illuminated Record containing the Resolution passed in May 2023 electing her to the Office of Mayor, together with her past Mayor's Badge. The Mayor will then present to Mr Paul Little, his past Mayor's Consort badge.

The Mayor will then address the Council.

3. Declarations of Interest.
4. To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Borough Council held on 18 March 2024.
5. Mayor's Announcements, including:-
 - (i) Appointment of Reverend Anthony Hodgson as Chaplain to the Mayor
 - (ii) Civic Sunday – Sunday, 19 May 2024 at St Margaret's Church, St Annes.
6. The Chief Executive to report receipt of any relevant communications which have been received subsequent to the agenda being sent out.
7. Allocation of Committee Membership
8. Constitution Change – Route to Scrutiny
9. Fully Funded Revenue Budget Increase - Household Support Fund Round 5

Refreshments will be served following the close of the meeting.



Fylde Council is marking the 50th Anniversary of the creation of hundreds of councils under the Local Government Act 1972.

On 1st April 1974 the two tier system of local government was introduced and reduced the number of councils from 1,245 to 412 of which Fylde Council is one.

The anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate those councils, recognise and highlight the important contribution they make to their communities and showcase the value of local government.

It's also an opportunity to focus on the people – leaders, councillors and officers – who have served their local residents over the last half century.

The code of conduct for members can be found in the council's constitution at

<https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/DocumentsandInformation.aspx>

Contact: Sharon Wadsworth – Telephone: (01253) 658542 – Email: democracy@fylde.gov.uk

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DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF GOVERNANCE	COUNCIL	8 MAY 2024	7

CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEES AND ALLOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC ITEM

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

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The council is required annually to confirm the committees that it wishes to appoint and allocate the membership of certain committees in accordance with the principles of political balance under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This report revisits the calculation as mandated by a resolution of the council at its meeting on 18 March this year.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to a recommendation to the council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Allocate committee seats in accordance with the principles of political balance as set out in the table in paragraph 3.
2. Appoint members to seats on committees required to be politically balanced in accordance with nominations made by the political groups, where relevant.
3. Appoint members to the Licensing Committee, which is not required to be politically balanced.

REPORT

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1. Under its constitution, the council is required annually to decide which committees to establish for the municipal year; decide the size and terms of reference for those committees; and decide the allocation of seats on those committees to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules where applicable. The council considered a report concerning those matters at its meeting on 18 March. The report contained a table showing the committee seat allocations required to achieve political balance, calculated using the methodology that has been used for more than 20 years.
2. The meeting resolved (as far as relevant):

1. Appoint the committees and joint committees set out in appendix 1 for the municipal year 2024-2025, with the same terms of reference as presently agreed.
2. Allocate committee seats, in accordance with the numbers as circulated, with a view to revisit the calculation of political balance, as outlined by Councillor Lee, together with the appointment of members to seats on committees at a future meeting.
3. Since the report for March 18 council meeting was written, a number of changes to political groups have occurred. These has affected the political balance calculation. A table showing the committee seat allocations required to achieve political balance following this change, calculated using the same methodology as the table in the previous report, is below.

Committee	Total seats	Con	Ind	Lab	Lib Dem	Non-aligned
Executive	12	7	3	0	1	1
Internal Affairs Scrutiny	12	7	3	1	1	0
Community Focus Scrutiny	12	7	3	0	1	1
Planning	12	7	3	1	0	1
Public Protection	12	7	3	1	0	1
Audit and Governance	9	5	3	0	0	1
Standards	5	3	2	0	0	0
Chief Officers Employment	6	4	2	0	0	0

4. The council is invited to make individual appointments at to seats allocated to political groups at today's meeting in accordance with the nominations by the political groups set out in appendix 1. The council is also invited to make appointments to the seats allocated to non-aligned councillors.

CALCULATION METHODOLOGY

5. The methodology used to calculate the table above results in the following:

	Percentage of councillors	of Percentage of committee seats	Variance between % of councillors and % of committee seats
<i>Conservative</i>	51.35 (19 out of 37)	58.75 (47 out of 80)	+7.40
Independent	29.73 (11)	27.50 (22)	-2.23 (largest variance)
Labour	5.41 (2)	4.32 (3)	-1.66 (smallest variance)
Liberal Democrat	5.41 (2)	4.32 (3)	-1.66 (smallest variance)
Non-aligned	8.11 (3)	6.49 (5)	-1.86

Note that because the Conservative group forms an absolute majority of councillors, it is entitled to a majority on all committees, regardless of any other measure.

6. In analysing the fairness of the distribution of seats in accordance with the principle of political balance, the key measure is the difference between the largest and smallest variance, as shown in the fourth column of the table, but disregarding the majority group. The smaller the difference, the fairer the distribution. That difference is 0.57 as shown above (the difference between -2.23 and -1.66). Any other distribution of seats results in a larger number, which translates to a bigger difference in the relative advantage of the group with the largest variance compared to the group with the smallest variance.

7. The alternative calculation which was put forward to the March 18 council meeting resulted in the difference between the largest and smallest variance, (disregarding the majority group) being 0.78. My conclusion is that allocation of seats on the basis of the alternative calculation would not fulfil the principles of political balance as well as the calculation set out in the table set out in paragraph 3 and analysed in the table in paragraph 5.
8. My recommendation is therefore to continue to use the methodology used in previous years.

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	✓

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from the report
Legal	Political balance is a legal requirement for most committees of the council.
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

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
<p>Council, 18 March 2024: It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint the committees and joint committees set out in appendix 1 for the municipal year 2024-2025, with the same terms of reference as presently agreed. 2. Allocate committee seats, in accordance with the numbers as circulated, with a view to revisit the calculation of political balance, as outlined by Councillor Lee, together with the appointment of members to seats on committees at a future meeting. <p>[...]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Appoint members to the Licensing Committee, which is not required to be politically balanced.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Ian Curtis	ian.curtis@fylde.gov.uk	24 April 2023

Committee Membership 2024/25 - Draft

	Programme and Scrutiny			Regulatory					Other		
	Executive	Internal Affairs Scrutiny	Community Focus Scrutiny	Planning	Public Protection	Licensing *	Audit & Governance	Standards	Chief Officer Employment	Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Prosperity Board *	JNC (Chief Executives) Independent Panel
CH	Buckley, Karen	Fazackerley, Susan	Settle, Vince	Redcliffe, Richard	Pitman, Sandra	Pitman, Sandra	Withers, Michael	Fazackerley, Susan	Buckley, Karen	Buckley, Karen	Broughton, H*
VC	Redcliffe, Richard	Kirkham, John	Andrews, Frank	Harrison, Gavin	Willder, Viv	Willder, Viv	Redfearn, Andrew				Horrocks, B*
3			Anthony, Peter		Andrews, Frank	Andrews, Frank	Anthony, Peter	Gaunt, Ellie			Clements, P*
4									Fazackerley, Susan		
5	Dixon, Chris	Gardner, Joanne		Dixon, Chris	Evans, Martin	Evans, Martin	Gaunt, Ellie	Willder, Viv	Redcliffe, Richard		
6	Gaunt, Ellie	Little, Cheryl		Evans, Martin	Fazackerley, Susan	Fazackerley, Susan		Broughton, H*	Withers, Michael		
7	Farrington, Kelly*		Evans, Martin		Goodman, Gail	Goodman, Gail		Horrocks, B*			
8	Lee, Matthew	Pitman, Sandra	Nash, Ed	Goodman, Gail			Kirkham, John	Clements, P*			
9	Morris, Michelle	Redcliffe, Richard	Harrison, Gavin	Ledger, Jordan	Harrison, Gavin	Harrison, Gavin	Nash, Ed				
10		Redfearn, Andrew	Henshaw, Karen	Nixon, Jayne							
11	Nixon, Jayne	Taylor, William	Kirkham, John	Pitman, Sandra	Little, Cheryl	Little, Cheryl					
12	Threlfall, Tommy	Willder, Viv	Withers, Michael	Settle, Vince	Taylor, William	Taylor, William					
				Substitutes x 10 max							
				Andrews, Frank							
				Morris, Michelle							
				Willder, Viv							
				Anthony, Peter							
				Buckley, Damian							
				Bickerstaffe, Liz							
				Collins, Ed							
				Taylor, W							
	Conservative: 7	Conservative: 7	Conservative: 7	Conservative: 7	Conservative: 7		Conservative: 5	Conservative: 3	Conservative: 4		* Statutory Independent Persons
	Independent: 3	Independent: 3	Independent: 3	Independent: 3	Independent: 3		Independent: 3	Independent: 2	Independent: 2		
	Labour: 0	Labour: 1	Labour: 0	Labour: 1	Labour: 1		Labour: 0	Labour: 0	Labour: 0		
	Lib Dem:1	Lib Dem:1	Lib Dem: 1	Lib Dem: 0	Lib Dem: 0		Lib Dem: 0	Lib Dem: 0	Lib Dem: 0		
	Non Aligned: 1	Non Aligned: 0	Non Aligned: 1	Non Aligned: 1	Non Aligned: 1		Non Aligned: 1	Non Aligned: 0	Non Aligned: 0		
	*nominated by the Lib Dems					* not required to be politically balanced		* Statutory Independent Persons		* not required to be politically balanced	
											as per Council 2/10/23

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	COUNCIL	8 MAY 2024	8
CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT - ROUTE TO SCRUTINY			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Ellie Gaunt).

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To propose an amendment to the constitution to outline the pathway for members to ask the scrutiny committee to consider including a relevant matter in its workplan.

The Audit and Governance Committee considered the matter at its meeting on 11 April 2024 and recommended to council that the constitution be amended accordingly.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to:

- A recommendation to the council or to any other committee or sub-committee of the council

RECOMMENDATION

1. To amend the constitution to include the following paragraph;

X.1 Any member of the council can refer a matter for request to be included in a scrutiny workplan.

X.2 Requests must be made in writing to the Deputy Chief Executive (or a member of the Scrutiny Team in their absence) and may include a supporting statement of no more than 100 words.

X.3 A request will be placed on the agenda of the relevant committee at its next available meeting, The "next available" meeting means the first meeting falling more than ten working days after the Deputy Chief Executive receives the request, unless it is practicable to include the request as an agenda item at an earlier meeting, in which case it means that earlier meeting. Any supporting statement will be included in the agenda along with the request.

X.4 The committee will deliberate and decide whether to include the requested matter in its workplan. If the committee decides against inclusion, it should set out a concise reason for its decision.

REPORT

1. Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Committee Systems) (England) Regulations 2012 provides that;
 - (1) The local authority must ensure that it enables—
 - (a) any member of an overview and scrutiny committee of the authority to refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to the functions of the committee;
 - (b) any member of a sub-committee of an overview and scrutiny committee of the authority to refer to the sub-committee any matter which is relevant to the functions of the sub-committee; and
 - (c) any member of the authority to refer to an overview and scrutiny committee of the authority of which the member of the authority is not a member any matter which is relevant to the functions of the committee and is not an excluded matter.
 - (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a local authority enables a person to refer a matter to a committee or sub-committee if it enables the person to ensure that the matter is included in the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of the committee or sub-committee.
2. As such the constitution does not explicitly lay out the procedure by which members of the council can request that the relevant scrutiny committee considers including a relevant matter in its workplan.
3. It is therefore proposed that the constitution be amended to include a pathway.
4. The following is outlined to address this:

X.1 Any member of the council can refer a matter for request to be included in a scrutiny workplan.

X.2 Requests must be made in writing to the Deputy Chief Executive (or a member of the Scrutiny Team in their absence) and may include a supporting statement of no more than 100 words.

X.3 A request will be placed on the agenda of the relevant committee at its next available meeting, The “next available” meeting means the first meeting falling more than ten working days after the Deputy Chief Executive receives the request, unless it is practicable to include the request as an agenda item at an earlier meeting, in which case it means that earlier meeting. Any supporting statement will be included in the agenda along with the request.

X.4 The committee will deliberate and decide whether to include the requested matter in its workplan. If the committee decides against inclusion, it should set out a concise reason for its decision.

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	√

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from this report
Legal	None arising from this report
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

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS	
Audit and Governance Committee 11 April 2024 – To recommend to council to amend the constitution accordingly	

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Ian Curtis	ian.curtis@fylde.gov.uk	April 2024

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	COUNCIL	8 MAY 2024	9
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE - HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND ROUND 5			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of the Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide details of further government grant funding for Household Support.

To draw down from Lancashire County Council (LCC) £261,853 from the fund to support low-income families using similar approaches applied for the previous three rounds of Household Support Fund.

The matter was considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2024, and recommended that Council approve a fully funded budget increase.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to a recommendation to the council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £261,853 in 2024/25, fully funded from the government Household Support Fund grant.

REPORT

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUNDING

- In September 2021, the government announced that vulnerable households across the country would be able to access a £500 million support fund to help them with essentials over the winter period. This funding was provided to LCC with £150,000 allocated to Fylde Council. The grant was to directly help residents who needed it most based on various criteria around income, family size etc. with funds distributed through small payments that supported vulnerable households to meet daily costs such as food, clothing, and utilities. The funding was available to individuals and families irrespective of age. The Environmental, Health and Housing Committee has received updated information on the programme expenditure and outcomes.
- In July 2022, Fylde Council received a further £270,000 from the Household Support Fund through LCC which was to be more targeted at support for the elderly.

3. In October 2022 a third round of Household Support Fund grants was allocated to Fylde Council through LCC, and a further £270,000 was made available to support households in need up to March 31, 2023, this was allocated on a similar basis to the first round of funding made in September 2021.
4. In March 2023 a fourth round of Household Support Fund grants was allocated to Fylde Council through Lancashire County Council a further £540,000 was made available to support vulnerable households for the period running to 31st March 2024.
5. Over the past five cohorts of the Household funding administration, we have utilised a comprehensive multiagency approach to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources. We have collaborated with multiple sectors; engaged with the voluntary sector, faith sector, and involved community members in smaller cohorts to enhance the reach and impact of our initiatives. Partnership with key organizations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and working closely with Housing, HomeStart, and Foodbanks, to address the diverse needs of households and provide tailored support. This collaborative approach has enabled us to maximize the impact of the household support funding, ensuring that it reaches those in most need and delivers tangible benefits to the community.
6. A fifth round of Household Support Fund grants has been announced by the government with £421 million allocated to upper-tier authorities to provide support in the period up to 30 September 2024. Fylde Council has been notified by Lancashire County Council that it will receive £261,853 to provide support to vulnerable households for the period running to 30th September 2024. The funds should be spent or committed by 30th September 2024 and should not be carried forward for future use.
7. The Household Support Fund is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions to support those most in need. This fund can be used to help households with children, households with pensioners, households with disabled persons and other households towards the cost of:
 - a. Food
 - b. Energy/water needs
 - c. Essentials linked to energy and water
 - d. Wider essentials, where appropriate, such as clothing, broadband, period and hygiene projects.
 - e. Housing costs
 - f. Reasonable administrative cost.
8. The funding should be used to meet the immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and related essentials. Authorities can use the funding to support households who are struggling to afford other essentials and housing costs.
9. Authorities have been encouraged to work in partnership with third-party organisations to identify individuals and families where there is greatest need. Fylde has taken this approach when allocating the first three rounds of Household Support Fund working with local charities (CAB, Food Bank, Homestart etc) community groups (Well Church, Hope Church, YMCA etc) and Lancashire County Council as well as other neighbouring authorities on initiatives.
10. Appendix 1 of the report provides details of the indicative schemes that the fund will support, many of the initiatives are tried and tested in Fylde from earlier funding rounds. The target population is well-known and well-informed.
11. The Executive Committee considered the matter at its meeting on 25 April 2024 and recommended that Council approve a fully funded budget increase.

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	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report recommends that Council approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £261,853 in 2024/25, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Fund.
Legal	The council has 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.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
<p>Finance & Democracy 24th January 2022 – Approval of a revenue budget increase of up to £150,000 in 2021/22, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant (Round 1).</p> <p>Full Council 4th July 2022 - Approval of fully funded budget increase in the sum of £270,000 in 2022/23, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant (Round 2).</p> <p>Full Council -5th December 2022 - Approval of fully funded budget increase in the sum of £270,00 in 2022/23, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant (Round 3).</p> <p>Urgent Decision in May 2023 as reported to Community Focus Scrutiny Committee 22 June 2023 – Approval of fully funded budget increase in the sum of £540,000 in 2023/24, fully funded from the government grant funding stream for Household Support Grant (Round 4)</p> <p>Executive Committee 25 April 2024 - Recommend to Council to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £261,853 in 2024/25, fully funded from the government Household Support Fund grant.</p>

BACKGROUND PAPERS RELEVANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Household Support Fund (National)	February 2023	Household Support Fund Guidance
Household Support Fund (Fylde)	September 2021	Household Support Fund Help
Household Support Fund (LCC)	September 2021	Household Support Fund Lancashire

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Manning	tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk & 01253 658506	10/4/2024

Appendix 1 - Indicative Allocation of Household Support Fund Round 5 (to 30th September 2024)

- **CAB:** energy bills and essential support through applications £195,000
- **Foodbanks:** community support through vouchers and food parcels £30,000-£40,000
- **Homestart:** white goods purchases through signposting / referrals from professionals and partners £10,000
- **The Housing Service:** multiple schemes as set out below. £15,000

Aldi vouchers

The fund has been used previously for providing Aldi Vouchers. Payments of £10 or £20 for a single person and £50 for a family have supported clients to purchase food when the food bank is not open usually in an emergency. This scheme has had the biggest impact where households are in B&B prior to going into temporary self-contained accommodation in St Annes, the vouchers have assisted with the extra costs of providing food.

Argos Vouchers

The fund has been used to provide household support packs which included cutlery, bedding, toasters, kettles etc. The provision of such items has been essential when clients move into new accommodation. The use of vouchers to provide household items essential for everyday living has been very successful in previous funding rounds with demand still evident.

White goods and carpets

The ability to assist clients with up to £400 towards cooker/fridge/carpets made a significant difference to households moving into accommodation along with the smaller items support scheme.

Top up Rent in Advance and Bond/RIA for households in employment

The Housing service currently has a high number of households in temporary accommodation whose options for social housing are affected by the lack of turnover in housing stock and private rental levels being unaffordable given their present circumstances. Households in receipt of HB can apply for rent bond or rent in advance from DHP and Vickers Relief. Many can source accommodation slightly above LHA rates, concerns around affordability after 6 months results in applications to DHP and Fylde Council Help 2 Rent scheme being refused. The additional funding has been used to fund a top up from HB levels for 6 months' rent in advance enabling the move into independent accommodation out of temporary accommodation. For households in employment the options for rent bond or RIA are limited to Vickers Relief Charity as they are not eligible for DHP funding. The additional funding would be used to assist these households into independent accommodation and based on affordability would cover the rent bond and rent in advance.