

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CORPORATE SERVICES	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	19 FEBRUARY 2024	6
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE – HOLIDAY, ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)			

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 Social Wellbeing (Councillor Chris Dixon).

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

As part of the Government's commitment to tackling child hunger, funding has been made available to deliver a school holiday programme of physical and enrichment activities, together with a healthy meal, for children in receipt of free school meals.

The objectives of the programme are for attendees to:

- eat more healthily over the school holidays
- be more active during the school holidays
- take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character, and wellbeing, along with their wider educational attainment
- be safe and not socially isolated
- have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- be more engaged with school and other local service

Fylde has been provided with a funded budget allocation of £153,708, to deliver the HAF programme in 2024/2025.

Committee approval is required to proceed with a project of this value.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is recoverable under section 7 of part 3 of the constitution.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Executive Committee is requested to approve a revenue budget increase of £153,708, fully funded from specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2024/2025.

REPORT

Background

1. The government announced that the holiday activities and food programme will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021-2024. The programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018. The Government is making £220 million available to local authorities in England to coordinate the programme.
2. School holidays can be pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes, with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health; and more likely to experience social isolation. Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue, with the aim to make free places available to eligible children for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year.
3. Local authorities are asked to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals in their area, on a voluntary basis. Places may also be made available to other children who can pay to attend.
4. The aims of this programme are for children who attend this provision to eat more healthily over the school holidays; be more active during the school holidays; take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment; be safe and not to be socially isolated; have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition; be more engaged with school and other local services; and for the wider family to develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting.

Scheme Details

5. Local authorities can deliver the programme or work with another organisation to coordinate the provision on their behalf. LAs are encouraged to work with a wide range of community and voluntary partners in the delivery of this programme.
6. The role of coordinating the holiday provision involves mapping the holiday provision to ensure that holiday provision exists and is supporting the areas of greatest need; establishing a steering group of local representatives to support implementation and delivery; drawing in wider support to enhance the local programme i.e. sponsors, food/activity providers and local businesses etc.; developing a local plan for provision in the area; ensuring that sufficient, adequate provision is available across the area for children with SEND or additional needs; awarding funding to holiday club providers to ensure there is enough provision to meet demand; supporting all providers to meet the framework of minimum standards including safeguarding requirements and maintaining food standards; supporting all providers to improve the quality of their provision; working with families to reduce dependency by educating families around purchasing and preparing healthy meals on a sustainable basis; promoting and advertising provision to encourage the most at-need children to attend; working with other local services or agencies to ensure a joined-up and efficient approach; and building local partnerships and sharing learning and good practice among local partners.
7. Local authorities will receive grant funding based on predicted participation levels and the numbers of children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals in the area. The funding will cover the provision of free holiday places and the coordination of the programme locally. Administrative costs must not exceed 10% of the total funding allocated on the costs associated with running the programme. The remaining 90% can be used flexibly to support setting up new provision where needed; paying for additional staff to expand existing provision; paying for additional staff to meet additional needs; bringing in activity providers such as sports coaches; or establishing partnerships with catering organisations.
8. Holiday clubs must be able to provide information, signposting or referrals to other services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families, such as Citizen's Advice; healthcare practitioners; family support services or children's services; housing support officers; Jobcentre Plus; and organisations providing financial advice.
9. All organisations and individuals (including volunteers) involved in the delivery of the holiday activities and food programme and must have relevant and appropriate policies and procedures for safeguarding; health and safety; relevant insurance policies; and accessibility and inclusiveness.

Local Provision (Fylde)

10. Fylde has been provided with an indicative budget allocation of £153,708, The central costs are based on easter break (one week provision), summer holiday (four weeks provision) and Christmas holiday (one week provision) only.
11. There is continued allocation in the budget to extend the contract for the HAF scheme coordinator on a part-time basis.
12. In 2023, there was a 34.5% increase in HAF attendance, with 1462 children attending the programme in Fylde. The area breakdown was calculated as a percentage of children's attendance with accordance to the Christmas delivery was as follows: 716 children attend in St Annes, 307 in Lytham and Ansdell, 220 in Kirkham and Wesham, 73 in Warton and 146 in Freckleton. A total of 846 session have been attended, including SEND children. We received £169,334 to deliver the programme and spent £21,627 on staff cost.

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 sets out details of grant funding received by the council to deliver the HAF project, and requests that Executive Committee approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £153,709, from the specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the programme in Fylde in 2024/25 as detailed in the report.
Legal	No legal implications arising as a result of this report
Community Safety	No Community Safety implications arising as a result of this report
Human Rights and Equalities	No Human Rights and Equalities implications arising as a result of this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No Sustainability and Environmental impact implications arising as a result of this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No Health & Safety and Risk Management implications arising as a result of this report

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
<p>Environment, Health & Housing Committee – 15 June 2021 resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Committee support the emergency decision of the Chief Executive to proceed with the recruitment of the HAF Co-ordinator; 2. That the Committee approve delivery of the HAF project as set out in the report; and 3. That the Committee request that Finance and Democracy Committee approve a revenue budget increase of £123,000, fully funded from specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2021/22.

[Finance & Democracy Committee – 28 June 2021](#) resolved:

To approve a revenue budget increase of £123,000, fully funded from specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2021/22.

[Environment, Health & Housing – 4 January 2022](#) – Information Item update

[Environment, Health & Housing Committee – 29th March 2022](#) resolved:

1. That the Committee approve delivery of the HAF project as set out in the report; and
2. That the Committee request that Finance and Democracy Committee approve a revenue budget increase of £160,216, fully funded from specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2022.

[Finance and Democracy Committee – 23rd June 2022](#) resolved:

1. To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £160,216, from the HAF grant for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2022/23 that the EHH committee approved 29 March 2022.

[Finance and Democracy Committee – 30th January 2023](#) resolved:

1. To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £163,498.40, from the HAF grant for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2023/24.

BACKGROUND PAPERS RELEVANT TO THIS ITEM

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/A		

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Edyta Paxton	Edyta.paxton@fylde.gov.uk	5 February 2024