

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	14 JUNE 2022	5
HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

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 Lancashire County Council 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.

At the time of writing this report, the council has been notified that it is to receive a further allocation of funding from Lancashire County Council (LCC). The council has been requested to direct this spending on supporting the elderly. It is suggested that either a large proportion of the grant, or the entire grant, is directed at supporting OAP's who are eligible for the council take 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 the families and individuals are being supported this time around by LCC giving free school meal vouchers across the school holidays from April to September.

Discussions are still ongoing with LCC to understand if this will leave any provision remaining for supporting individuals and/or families in terms of this second tranche of funding. An update will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To be formulated at the meeting based on the understanding of the issue on 14th June 2022.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

At the meeting of the Committee held on 4th January 2022, members noted the position with respect to the allocation and spend to date of the Household Support Fund, which has been allocated under the Chief Executive's delegations pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. The projected spending against several allocated projects was agreed.

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

- 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 Lancashire County Council 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.
- The details of how the fund was allocated in the first tranche of funding is set out below. The grants were administered by a mix of Fylde CAB, Age UK, the Fylde Foodbank, and the council's Housing Team. Table 1 shows the total funding award from LCC; Table 2 shows the value of awards split by households and Table 3 shows the split of what the funding awards were spent on.

Table 1: Total Awards	
Item	Spend (£s)
a) Total amount provided to vulnerable households	141,170.67
b) Administration Costs	11,000
c) Total LA spend (a+b)	152,170.67

Table 2: Total Value of Awards split by Household Composition			
	a) Households with Children	b) Households without Children	c) Total (a+b)
Spend (£s)	90,559.97	50,610.70	141,170.67
Volumes	452	368	820

Table 3: Total Value of Awards Split by Category						
	a) Food	b) Energy and Water	c) Essentials linked to Energy and Water	d) Wider Essentials	e) Housing Costs	e) Total (a+b+c+d+e)
Spend (£s)	16,000	60,731	33,596	19,897.14	10,946.53	141,170.67
Volumes	335	181	109	188	20	833

- At the time of writing this report, the council has been notified that it is to receive a further allocation of funding from Lancashire County Council (LCC). In terms of this second tranche of funding, the council has been requested to direct this spending on supporting the elderly. It is suggested that either a large proportion of the grant, or the entire 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 this time around by LCC giving free school meal vouchers across all the school holidays from April to September.
- Discussions are still on-going with LCC to understand if this will leave any provision remaining for supporting individuals and/or families in terms of this second tranche of funding. An update will be provided at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

5. 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. Hence any funding awarded for this scheme will have to seek the support of the Finance and Democracy Committee to add this amount as a fully funded budget increase in anticipation that the amount is likely to be similar to the initial tranche of funding in the region of £150k.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report is likely to recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of an anticipated fully funded revenue budget increase of £150,000 in 2021/22 to be met in full from the government grant funding stream as detailed in the report.
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		