

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Richard Samuel, Cabinet Member for Resources	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 25 th December 2020	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE
		E 3251
TITLE:	Covid Winter Grant Scheme	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: COVID Winter Grant Scheme: – Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities		

1 THE ISSUE

A decision on how to allocate the Covid Winter Grant.

2 RECOMMENDATION

To delegate responsibility for decisions on grant allocation to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Government has allocated grant funding of £387,000 to the council to support residents with food, key utilities and essential household items over the winter period.
- 3.2 The funding is to be primarily used to support families with children who need additional help, and to support vulnerable adults.
- 3.3 The Government have specified that a minimum of 80% of the funding should be used to support households with children, and a minimum of 80% of the funding should be spent on Food and Key utilities for households, however the exact method of distributing the funding to eligible households and individuals is not specified and will be for the local authority to determine based on the needs and circumstances of residents.

- 3.4 The funding will be distributed in tranches with 50% to be paid up front and two further instalments of 25% to be paid upon collation and return of basic management information to show how the grant has been allocated to residents.
- 3.5 The conditions of the funding are that it must be paid to residents by 31st March 2021, and any residual funding will be returned to the Government.
- 3.6 Due to the amount of the funding allocated, the time constraints and the scope for providing different forms of help and support to residents in need, decisions on allocation of the grant are to be delegated to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

Allocations of the grant will count as Local Welfare Provision as defined in The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013, and so will be disregarded as income for Social Security purposes. This will also enable data sharing between the council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Administration costs incurred through distributing the funding to residents may be charged to the grant however these costs must be reasonable and justifiable.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

The Department for Work and Pensions is in the process of carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment on the proportion of the funding to be allocated to households with children and it will be available on request. It is therefore not necessary for the council to carry out a separate Equality Impact Assessment.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

Not Applicable

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

10 CONSULTATION

The S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer have been consulted.

Contact person	Damian Peak
Background papers	COVID Winter Grant Scheme: – Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities
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