

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E3325

Household Support Fund

Decision maker/s	Cllr Richard Samuel, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources
The Issue	A decision is required on how the council should use DWP grant funding to support vulnerable households this winter.
Decision Date	Not before 17/11/2021
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that the grant funding will be allocated as follows.</p> <p>£320,000 to continue the Free School Meal voucher scheme for the October, Christmas, and February half term periods in 2021/22.</p> <p>£100,000 will be provided to Citizens Advice Bath and North East Somerset to fund the Fuel Voucher Scheme</p> <p>£547,000 will be allocated to provide support to vulnerable residents with energy costs through issuing prepaid debit cards and associated administrative costs.</p>
Rationale for decision	The cost of energy has risen sharply over the last year due to worldwide energy supply issues. Whilst there is good provision for support with food and housing costs for B&NES residents, support for help with energy is less available. The council should therefore focus on this area of need.
Financial and budget implications	Provision of Free School Meal Vouchers and Prepaid debit cards will be managed through using existing resources within the Welfare Support and Housing Benefit service, however there are costs associated with this which are estimated to be around £34,000 - £47,000. This administrative cost, and the cost of the three schemes will be fully funded from the DWP grant.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Young People; Corporate; Impact on Staff.
Consultation undertaken	Staff; Other B&NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	By email and Video call
Other options considered	Provision of vouchers for General Living costs

Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	
Date of Signature	

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision