

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Cllr Richard Samuel, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>On or after 7 July 2022</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE
		<b>E 3376</b>
TITLE:	<b>Household Support Fund from 01.04.2022</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Household Support Fund (1 April 2022 – 30 September 2022): – FINAL Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England		

### 1 THE ISSUE

A decision on how to allocate the council's Household Support Fund (HSF) allocation.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

**To delegate responsibility for decisions on how the council's HSF grant allocation should be used to the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources, including subsequent iterations of the scheme and similar grants.**

### 3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Government has allocated grant funding of £967,000 to the council to support residents with food, key utilities and essential household items.
- 3.2 The funding is to be primarily used to support families with children who need additional help, Pensioners and vulnerable adults.
- 3.3 The Government have specified that a minimum of one third of the funding should be allocated to support households with children, and a minimum of one third of the funding should be allocated to households with Pensioners and up to

one third may be used to support other vulnerable households outside of these groups. However, the exact method of distributing the funding to 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 to the council in two tranches. The council must submit a management information return by 22<sup>nd</sup> July for the period 01.04.2022 to 30.06.2022, and a final return in October 2022. These returns will determine the amount of payment provided by DWP on an interim basis, following the submission of the July return, and the final settlement on submission of the final return.
- 3.5 The conditions of the funding are that it must be paid to residents by 30<sup>st</sup> September 2022, 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 how the grant funding should be used will be delegated to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources. Decisions on how subsequent iterations of this and similar grants should be used will also be delegated to the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources.
- 3.7 Practical decisions on the amount of support provided to individual residents will be delegated to council officers, and the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources will not be involved in any decisions at this level.

#### **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 council will make any application process easy to access and navigate. An equalities impact assessment will be carried out as necessary once decisions on how the funding is spent are made.

#### **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

Not Applicable

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

## 10 CONSULTATION

The S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer have been consulted.

<b>Contact person</b>	Damian Peak
<b>Background papers</b>	Household Support Fund (1 April 2022 – 30 September 2022): – FINAL Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	