

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 11 October 2022

Title of report: Proposals for additional Household Support in 2022/23

Purpose of report: To set out proposals to provide support for households in 2022/23 in accordance with funding and associated guidance issued by Government.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes If yes give the reason why – indicative Government funded assistance package Borough wide, totalling £ 3.7m
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	26/09/22 Rachel Spencer-Henshall Yes Eamonn Croston 28/09/22 Yes Julie Muscroft 28/09/22
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Paul Davies 28/09/22

Electoral wards affected: All Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 26th May 2022, the then Chancellor announced further measures to households as part of the Government's Economy Statement to address the still emerging Cost of Living Crisis, he stated "To support them and others, we will extend the household support fund delivered by local authorities by £0.5 billion from October". In the previous round of funding this Council's share was £3.702m. This Fund is intended to support vulnerable people with payments and grants such as vouchers to help meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.
- 1.2 To date we have received draft guidance which unlike the last iteration does not require that one third be targeted at pensioner household, in every other respect the guidance reflects the previous two iterations. There is a requirement that every authority has an application process so that individuals can make their needs known and receive appropriate support.
- 1.3 Other measures announced by the chancellor in that statement on the 26th May 2022 provided direct support to individuals through the social security system. This funding package requires authorities to identify those in need that didn't benefit from those other measures.
- 1.4 In addition to this package of funding the authority will continue to deliver the discretionary Council Tax Energy rebate for the period up to and including the 30th November 2022. Individuals will be able to access support from both funds as appropriate and officers will decide which fund is most appropriate in the circumstances to maximise support.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval to provide targeted support that will supplement the support already provided by Kirklees directly and the measures announced by the Government which are already in train.
- 1.6 In addition this report seeks approval for specific grant funding to establish a further 5 food distribution hubs in collaboration with The Bread & Butter Thing. That funding does not come from the Household Support Fund but has become available as part of the Council's own Local Welfare Provision Scheme (LWP).

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The Chancellor announced on 26th May 2022 as part of his Economy Update, an extension of the 2021/22 Household Support Fund with a further £500m national funding allocation for 2022/23. This funding allocation broadly follows the same Government grant guidance as the 2021/22 Household Support Fund; namely supporting vulnerable people with payments and grants such as vouchers to help meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.
- 2.2 The Council's share is as yet unknown but our share of the previous £500m allocation was £3.702m This is a working assumption with the money needing to be allocated and spent by end of March 2023.

- 2.3 This is effectively an extension of the previous two funds notwithstanding that each fund has a distinct grant period with no facility to transfer funds beyond each fund closing date.
- 2.4 Using LWP funding to support The Bread & Butter Thing (TBBT). TBBT is currently operating in 4 hubs with a 5th coming online shortly. All of the hubs are proving successful with membership exceeding the number of families that can be supported each week, although not all members would want to access the food offer each week. This report seeks a decision to fund a further 5 hubs for one year, after which each hub is self sustaining. It is a proven concept in the borough which has been extremely well received in communities, not only does address issues around food poverty it also helps address issues around food waste.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The payments will provide financial assistance to residents that qualify.

The Council will continue to ensure that households and individuals are aware of what the Council can do to provide advice, guidance and support at this time with the resources it has available.

To seek opportunities to work with people, partners and in places, to find alternative solutions and to provide resilience in communities with initiatives like “The Bread and Butter Thing” which has started in Chickenley, Dalton, Deighton, Howden Clough, with Dewsbury Moor on stream. This report seeks 5 more hubs in addition to the direct interventions set out.

3.2 Working with Partners

Partners in the third sector will be critical in ensuring that those most vulnerable are aware of how they access this funding. We will ensure that partners are equipped to provide appropriate advice guidance and support

3.3 Place Based Working

There will be a need to directly engage with some residents that are hard to reach. We will continue to work with partners to maximise our community reach.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Reduces food waste

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Increases available household income so potentially reducing poverty as well as help towards food and fuel costs, and warm clothing.

3.6 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Financial

Government will provide initial Grant Funding of £3.702m based on previous grants, the cost of the TBBT seed funding is circa £120,000

Legal

The funding is a one-off contribution. It is to be treated as Local Welfare Provision for the purposes of any other decision though it is not itself a Local Welfare Provision payment.

It is important to note that any payments made out of this grant fund do not amount to payments made under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Ordinarily Local Welfare Provision payments are made under that section and then count as “public funds” for the purposes of immigration and would not therefore be available to those with no recourse to public funds. Payments made here will be made in accordance with the Grant Determination and are subject to the conditions set out by the Secretary of State in that determination.

The Council must have regard to its public Sector Equality duty under section 149 Equality Act 2010.

Human Resources

We will use the Local welfare Provision team to deliver these interventions we will also work with schools to purchase and distribute the vouchers

3.7 Financial impact on people living and working in Kirklees

Key issues are picked up in “Human Resources” and “Working with People “ above

4 Consultees and their opinions

For the most part payments are to be made in accordance with the scheme as set out by government and are not subject to consultation.

5 Next steps and timeline.

To commence payment activity as soon as is reasonably practicable.

6 Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that

(i) Households with Children:

To explore making an award to families entitled to Free School Meals a one-off Cost of Living Payment of £50 per child. This will be badged as a one off cost of living payment rather than free school meal support. Whilst this increases support only for families with children of school age, those families will experience additional costs when children are not in school. Other households can receive support through the scheme available to all households.

This would be paid by way of a voucher before Christmas 2022 cost in the region of £925,000

In addition explore whether Council Tax Reduction data can be used to identify households with children that are not of school age in order to include those in scope for a cost of living payment. The value of any payment to be decided with reference to volumes and those entitled through the mechanism identified above.

(ii) All Households:

Remaining balance to be utilised by:

- working with relevant partners/stakeholders/3rd sector organisations
- applications for support via Local Welfare Provision which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to support families and individuals in need.

It is proposed that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health and Service Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Corporate portfolio holder, Learning, Aspiration and Communities portfolio holder, and Service Director-Finance agree the mechanism for how the remaining balance be used working with those relevant partners/stakeholders/3rd sector organisations, in accordance with the grant funding guidance.

(iii) The Bread & Butter Thing:

That approval be given to a spend of circa £125,000 from the Local Welfare Provision budget by way of a one off grant in order to establish 5 further TBBT hubs.

7. Portfolio Holder Comments:

The Portfolio Holders agrees with the proposals as set out in this report.

8. Contact officer

Julian Hobson – Senior Manager, Welfare and Exchequer Services

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Cabinet HSF paper 5th April 2022

[https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s45861/Household Support 2022-23.pdf](https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s45861/Household%20Support%202022-23.pdf)

Cabinet decision

[Decision - Government proposals for additional Household Support in 2022/23 | Kirklees Council](#)

Cabinet HSF paper 5th July 2022

[https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s46836/2022-07-05 Household support grant CAB004.pdf](https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s46836/2022-07-05%20Household%20support%20grant%20CAB004.pdf)

Economy Statement

[Economy Update - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)

10. Service Director responsible

Eamonn Croston – Service Director - Finance