

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 16/11/2022

Title of report: West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Emergency Fund

Purpose of report: To set out proposals to provide support for households in 2022/23 and 2023/24 in accordance with funding and associated guidance issued by the West Yorkshire Mayor.

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| 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  |
| Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?  | Key Decision – yes<br>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  | Rachel Spencer-Henshall 24.10.22                           |
| Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?   | Eamonn Croston 24.10.22                                    |
| Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?  | Julie Muscroft 4.11.22                                     |
| Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>   | Cllr Paul Davies   |

Electoral wards affected: All Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 On 21st October 2022, the West Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority made a decision to create a £3m regional emergency fund to be called the Mayor's Cost of Living Emergency Fund, over the 2022-24 period.
- 1.2 A link to the paper giving rise to that decision is in section 9. It states "This proposed scheme responds to the cost of living crisis by providing funds from 01 November 2022 to directly help those most adversely affected by rapid inflationary pressures and at risk of economic exclusion, namely those in workless households and those in in-work poverty. In the longer term, by helping West Yorkshire people to remain in work, and to move others closer to accessing employment opportunities, the effects of economic scarring resulting from the crisis will be reduced. The scheme is to be delivered through the gainshare fund."
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to accept the funding made available for the citizens of Kirklees and that the authority use its Local Welfare Provision scheme as a vehicle to provide support through the Voluntary ,Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sectors 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.
- 1.4 The West Yorkshire Mayor's Fund is part of a broad action plan that sets out the council's short to medium/long term priorities on cost of living against three areas:
  1. Emergency response – our focus now for direct support for people already in crisis
  2. Resilience – our focus now to build places where people look after each other
  3. Prevention – acting now to address the medium- and long-term challenges and prevent future crisis

Recognising the urgency of the need, the action plan is primarily focussed on accelerating and scaling up existing work rather than establishing completely new projects. Further details on the workstreams can be found in the summary appended to this report.

- 1.5 Services from across the council are involved in this delivery, with each of the workstreams above assigned to specific services. The Cabinet member for Corporate Services leads on services' role in the delivery of the action plan. As place leaders, ward councillors are fundamental to local delivery, coordination, and communication across all the workstreams.
- 1.6 In addition this report seeks approval to supplement the funding made available through the Mayor's emergency fund with additional current year provision of £357,200 from the Council's share of the Government's Household Support Fund; in accordance with the decisions previously made in relation to that fund on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (see section 9).

## 2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 Subject to final WYMCA confirmation, it is anticipated that Kirklees will receive approximately £535,800 to be distributed in 1/3 bundles of £178,600

each 6 months over the next 18 months – that fund must be made available in its entirety to the VCSE sector.

2.2 Officers confirm that conversations have taken place between One Community Foundation Limited, as an established grant funding body, and the Combined Authority in order to establish the practicalities of both organisations being able to establish the fund criteria and monitoring arrangements. Those conversations have been very positive and arrangements are in place to operationalise this very quickly.

2.3 Arrangements are already in place to perform that same function in relation to any funding provided directly by Kirklees Council. With assurance that organisations can apply for funding from both funds in order to deliver different outcomes at the same time forming where necessary, one offer.

### **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.

#### **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**

N/A

#### **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 Financial impact on people living and working in Kirklees**

See “Working with People “ and Improving outcomes for children above

#### **3.7 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

**Financial**

No direct implications for the Council in relation to the Mayor's fund.

## **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 the Household Support 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 under the Local Welfare Provision banner 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.

Payments made under the Mayor's fund will be made in accordance with any restrictions placed upon it in WYMCA guidance and in accordance with section 22 in particular s 22.5 to 22.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

## **Human Resources**

N/A

### **4 Consultees and their opinions**

For the most part payments are to be made in accordance with the scheme as set out by the Mayor and are not subject to consultation. Consultation has taken place between officers of the Combined Authority, Local Authority, and One Community Foundation Ltd.

### **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) Members approve the funding as provided in accordance with the West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Emergency Fund and that it continues to work with One Community Foundation Ltd and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to establish the mechanism by which that fund is distributed to those organisations in the VCSE sector that are best placed to deliver against the outcomes the Mayor wishes to establish. And that those parts of section 22 of the financial procedure rules as apply shall apply to this fund.
- ii) Members approve the sum of £357,200 (in relation to the period to 31/03/2023) also to be awarded to the VCSE through One Community Foundation Ltd to supplement the Mayor's emergency funding and meet the requirements of the Household Support Fund as set in Guidance issued by the Secretary of State, and in accordance with the decision made by Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022; and

- iii) Members note the Cost of Living action plan summary appended to this report be noted.

## **7. Portfolio Holder Comments:**

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

## **8. Contact officer**

Julian Hobson – Acting Head of Service - Welfare and Exchequer Services

## **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

[Item 9 - Appendix 2 - Mayors Cost of Living Emergency Fund - Business Case Summary.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Decision - Proposals for Additional Household Support in 2022/23 | Kirklees Council](#)

## **10. Service Director responsible**

Eamonn Croston – Service Director – Finance