

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning

Title	Household Support Fund 2023/24
Decision maker	Cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	21 April 2023
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To accept the Household Support Fund allocation from the Department of Work and Pensions for the 2023/24 financial year and to approve the local eligibility approach for allocation of the funding for the Household Support Fund.
Decision	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Household Support Fund allocation of £2,659,204 grant funding from the Department of Work and Pensions for April 2023 to March 2024 is accepted; b) The local eligibility approach for allocation of the funding, as set out in paragraph 8, is approved; c) Application of the principles of local eligibility as set

	<p>out in this report is approved for any further extensions of the Household Support Fund, subject to any additional guidance issued by central government; and</p> <p>d) All operational and budgetary decisions in accordance with the local eligibility criteria regarding this scheme be delegated to Director of Resources and Assurance.</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50044728</p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to accept the allocation and a local eligibility framework and approach for the Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme at this time. This is not recommended. The HSF is to be used between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 to support vulnerable households. This is a key decision as the council will be incurring expenditure over £500,000 and it will impact on a significant number of residents within the county. Approval is therefore required for the framework and approach. Without approval, the council will be unable to incur the expenditure of the grant allocation of £2,659,204 for Herefordshire 2. To use all the funding allocation exclusively on those identified through means-tested benefits identified through data from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). This is not recommended. The expectation is that the HSF should be used to support households in the most need, particularly those who are not eligible for the other government support recently made available, but who are nevertheless in need. The flexibility of the HSF and the local eligibility framework will enable support to be provided to those on low incomes who do not qualify for means-tested benefits. 3. To use all the funding allocation exclusively on those who are on non means-tested benefits. This is also not recommended. There may be those on means-tested benefits, who despite the level of support received through the government's cost of living package of support, are vulnerable to rising prices, for example large families with children of all ages, households with a disabled family member or single income families.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	27 April 2023

Councillor:

Date 21 April 2023

Cabinet member finance, corporate services and
planning (Councillor Liz Harvey)

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.