

Record of operational decision

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| Decision title: | Decision to award local organisations funding from the Household Support Fund to provide 'warm spaces' for families |
| Date of decision: | 9 January 2023 |
| Decision maker: | Director of Resources and Assurance |
| Authority for delegated decision: | Chief Executive's Scheme of Delegation dated 29/09/2020 SA 92 – Financial services |
| Ward: | All Wards |
| Consultation: | Cabinet member for finance, corporate services and planning was consulted on the approach to award funding to local organisations to provide warm spaces |
| Decision made: | To provide up to £50k of funding from the Household Support Fund to local voluntary and community organisations so that vulnerable families can access a warm space that provides a 'hot meal' and family activity |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>Herefordshire Council has received an allocation of £1,329,601.78 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) under the Household Support Fund. The DWP guidance states that the 'Household Support Fund must support those most in need. There may be groups that are vulnerable to rising prices, for example, large families or single income families. The fund is intended to cover a wide range of low income households including families with children of all ages'.</p> <p>The 'Warm Spaces' offer currently in place has limited access for families, due to their operational times. By providing additional funding from the Household Support Fund this will enable voluntary and community organisations to open at times more accessible for families, particularly, weekends and evening.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council will work with trusted partners, many of who are either existing 'Warm Spaces', 'Talk Community Hubs' or were part of the 'Let's Talk Children and Families Project'.</p> <p>By utilising the funding from government, this will have a positive impact on low income families by providing them with an essential space to keep warm during the winter and helping to minimise the debt burden for those struggling to pay heating costs.</p> |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | <p>The cost of the scheme will be funded through the Household Support Fund allocation of £1,329,602.</p> <p>The council recognises that the pandemic has exacerbated the inequalities in our society, and this is being further compounded by the increased cost of living. By providing additional funding to the Warm Spaces hubs, the council will be supporting low income families who are struggling with energy and/ or food price increases.</p> |
| Details of any alternative options considered and | Not to approve spend to providing funding for Warm Spaces. This is not recommended. The Household Support Fund is expected to support households in most need. By providing additional funding to Warm Spaces will |

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| rejected: | enable the hubs to remain open during the evenings and weekends. This will allow for low income households to keep warm during the winter and have access to a hot meal. |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | None |

Signed:

Date: 9 January 2023