

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Award of Funding from the Household Support Fund to third party organisations																	
Date of decision:	5 October 2023																	
Decision maker:	Director of Resources and Assurance																	
Authority for delegated decision:	Cabinet member decision on 20 April 2023 delegated operational matters in relation to the Household Support Fund to the Director of Resources and Assurance Link: Decision - Household Support Fund 2023/24 - Herefordshire Council																	
Ward:	Countywide																	
Consultation:	Cabinet member for finance, corporate services and planning has been consulted about the approach to support third party organisations as part of the Household Support Fund framework.																	
Decision made:	To provide funding from the Household Support Fund to third party voluntary and community organisations so that vulnerable residents that are most in need, in Herefordshire, can access help with essential household bills, food provision, wider household essentials and advice services.																	
Reasons for decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council has received an allocation of £2,659,203.57 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) under the Household Support Fund. In line with DWP guidance most of the funding has been earmarked to support families with children and pensioner households who would otherwise struggle with energy, food and energy bills as well as other essential costs. The decision to support third party organisations will enable those organisations to support other Herefordshire households who are struggling to meet essential household bills. The funding to third party organisations is an important component of the support that is provided to low-income households. Providing funding to third party organisations will mean that those organisations can provide support to residents who are struggling with the increase in the cost of living.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council worked with existing trusted partners which had already been recipients of the Household Support Funding and had support households most in need successfully. The partners have also been identified based on the need to support all the eligible spend categories specified by the DWP guidance and to provide support to vulnerable households, across Herefordshire whatever their household composition.</p> <p>The amount of funding requested is to support residents until 31st March 2024.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Name of third party organisation</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Type of Support provided</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Amount of Household Support</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age UK Hereford and Localities</td> <td>Home energy checks / energy advice</td> <td>£42,130.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bromyard Foodbank and Money Advice Centre</td> <td>Emergency food provision</td> <td>£14,300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ethos</td> <td>Food support, energy support, advice & education</td> <td>£63,308.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hereford Foodbank</td> <td>Emergency food provision;</td> <td>£84,245.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Name of third party organisation	Type of Support provided	Amount of Household Support	Age UK Hereford and Localities	Home energy checks / energy advice	£42,130.00	Bromyard Foodbank and Money Advice Centre	Emergency food provision	£14,300.00	Ethos	Food support, energy support, advice & education	£63,308.88	Hereford Foodbank	Emergency food provision;	£84,245.00
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		support for cooking equipment		
	Herefordshire Community Foundation	Support for energy; support for other essentials linked to energy and water	£104,064.00	
	Ledbury Foodbank	Support for food; support for other essentials	£35,471.00	
	Leominster Foodbank (including the Money Advice Centre)	Support for food	£19,800.00	
	Mothers' Union – Diocese of Hereford	Support for household essentials	£15,300.00	
	Putson Baptist Church	Support for food; support for energy; support for other essentials	£81,900.00	
	YES Energy Solutions	Support for energy; support for other essentials linked to energy and water	£46,000.00	
	Total		£506,518.88	
	<p>Consumer prices, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 6.3% in the 12 months to August 2023. There have been significant increases in the price of energy and food over the course of 2022 into 2023. Low-income households spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food so will be more affected by price increases. By utilising the funding from government, this will have a positive impact on low income households by minimising the debt burden on those that struggle to pay essential bills.</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 £2,659,203.57. 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 funding to third party organisations, the council will be supporting low income families who are struggling with energy or food price increases.</p>			
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to approve spend to provide funding to third party organisations. This is not recommended. The Household Support Fund is expected to support households in most need. By working with third party organisations, this will enable the funding to reach struggling households as well as provide them with further advice and support that many of these organisations offer.</p>			
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None</p>			

Signed

Date: 5 October 2023