

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Deputy Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Andrew Walmsley
Date agreed: 14/10/2024

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes
Date agreed: 15/10/2024

Decision Taker:

Name: Rob Huntington

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

1 Accept the £337,936 Household Support Fund 6 (HSF6) grant from Lancashire County Council. This is made up of core Household Support Fund of £310,345 and £27,591 for Affordable Warmth Grant.

2 Approve funding to partner organisations to enable them to support the most financially vulnerable Rossendale Residents.

3 That any minor amendments to the criteria and budget be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

The grant allocation is for the period 1st October 2024 – 31st March 2025. It is imperative that the Council proceeds with the grant process as soon as possible to ensure full utilisation of the grant within the time period.

The funding will be allocated:-

An in house application process will be delivered by RBC

Citizens Advice will be commissioned to deliver benefit and debt advice

Affordable Warmth grants via Homewise Support via Food Banks, support for refugee & asylum seekers, funding for household items for vulnerable families supported by the Housing Options Team and an emergency discretionary fund. In addition there will be investment in an income maximisation project (year 2).

Distribution of grant funding continues to be in line with the scheme eligibility.

Spend of the fund will be reviewed in January 2025 and should there be an underspend, a targeted approach to pensioner household will be considered.

To delay making payments until the next meeting of Council would be a detriment to those most in need.

Decision to be taken by:

Rob Huntington

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

HSF6

Implications:

The HSF6 scheme commenced in on 1st October 2024 and is due to run until March 2025. The scheme is fully funded by Government. To seek approval at the next Council meeting would delay the distribution of grants to vulnerable residents.

Status:

For publication

Date:

15/10/2024

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
 - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
 2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
 3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.