

East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

Decision Notice From: **Leader Decision**

Date: 7th July 2023

Title: **HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 4**

Wards Affected ALL

Key Decision: **Yes** Implementation Date: 7th July 2023

Urgent Decision: **Yes**

Due to the timing of Government announcements, LCC decision-making and the pace we are working at to ensure residents can access support with immediate needs, there is not the time to follow the normal Committee and Council process.

The decision is urgent as any delay caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the Council has agreed that the decision proposed is a reasonable in the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.

DECISION:

- To accept East Lindsey's provisional grant funding allocation of **£1,333,614** from Lincolnshire County Council as part of the Department for Work and Pension's Household Support Fund to deliver the Household Support Fund at a local level.
- To give delegated authority to the Assistant Director (Wellbeing & Community Leadership) in consultation with the Leader and relevant Portfolio Holder to implement the policy in respect of administration of the funding.
- To facilitate provisional allocation **£1,029,600** via grants to low-income residents in receipt of Housing Benefit only living in the local authority area via postal vouchers that are redeemable for cash at Post Office branches.
- To utilise local allocation of **£304,014** to meet local needs and support vulnerable households in-line with the Household Support Fund grant conditions

Reason for the Decision:

- Due to the urgent need to support struggling households with immediate increases in 'cost of living', delegation is required to sign off policy and procedure outside of the committee process in order to successfully deliver the local scheme from July 2023.
- The proposed scheme is a targeted approach to those in most need with consideration of households **who did not** benefit from other Government 'cost of living' support payments as required in the national guidance.
- Officers working with people and communities have the relationships with third sector partners supporting vulnerable residents to offer wider welfare and cost of living advice.
- Based on experience of delivering local Household Support Fund schemes since initial launch in September 2021 and feedback from third sector partners.
- Fulfil the Council's community leadership role, by working with third sector organisations with reputable record of delivering grants and emergency support to residents in need

Alternative options considered:

- Not accept Lincolnshire County Council's proposal to accept the Household Support Fund for the purposes outlined within this report.
- To deliver through other grant and voucher providers.

To administer the application-based process in-house.

Conflict of interest declared:

N/A

Dispensations granted in respect of a conflict of interest:

N/A