

East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

Decision Notice From: **Leader Decision**

Date: 22 November 2024

Title: HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND (sixth round)

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: **Yes** Implementation Date: 3rd December 2024

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DECISION:

- To accept the funding allocation from Lincolnshire County Council as part of the Department for Work and Pension's Household Support Fund 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 to deliver the scheme at a local level. This is an indicative total of **£445,293** for East Lindsey.
- To give delegated authority to the Assistant Director (Wellbeing & Community Leadership) in consultation relevant Portfolio Holders to implement the policy in respect of administration and local distribution of the funding.
- To utilise local allocation to meet local need and support vulnerable households in-line with the Household Support Fund grant conditions:
 - 30% allocated via grant donation to Lincolnshire Community Foundation to administer public facing application-based scheme to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need of help with the cost of essentials
 - 20% allocated via grant donation to Age UK Lindsey to support low-income pension aged households who may be vulnerable to the cold with small grants to help with energy costs over winter
 - 20% allocated to external partners including local food banks, charities, NHS Neighbourhood Teams to support clients, patients and residents in most need
 - 20% allocated to internal teams including South & East Lincolnshire's Home Energy Advice & Retrofit Team (HEART),

Wellbeing Lincs, Good Homes Hub and Housing Advice & Homeless to support residents in most need

- 10% to retained support administration, staff costs and prevention and advice

Reason for the Decision:

- Accepting access to this local allocation of Government funding will ensure the Council can support residents in the most need with household essentials.
- Previous HSF rounds have been successfully delivered by this model. Relationships with delivery partners and mechanisms are now well established with learning taken from previous funding rounds.
- Working with third sector organisations with reputable record of delivering grants and emergency support to residents in need ensures as vulnerable households as possible are identified, engaged and supported.
- Due to recent changes in winter fuel payment eligibility and concerns that some households will be at increased risk of cold homes, this scheme offers support for households in most need of help.

Alternative options considered:

- Do nothing and decline the grant. The grant is paid in arrears and there is no requirement to draw down the funding. To not utilise the funding would be detrimental to households at a time when many continue to experience financial pressures and is not considered an option.
- To administer the application-based scheme in-house. Due to limited capacity and timescales this is not recommended. S&ELCP have established relationships with Lincolnshire Community Foundation to deliver local grants. They are a reputable Lincolnshire based grant-maker with the network and experience to efficiently deliver public-facing schemes.

Conflict of interest declared:

None.

Dispensations granted in respect of a conflict of interest:

None.