

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L16 22/23

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Household Support Fund Round 3
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Richard Bingley
3	Report author and contact details: Rachel Silcock, Community Empowerment Operational Lead, 01752 307176
4	Decision to be taken: To approve the distribution of Household Support Fund monies through the proposed Framework for Round 3
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>Funding from central government for the Household Support Fund (HSF) round 3 was confirmed on the 22nd September, to support vulnerable households during the winter months including with food and energy costs. This funding round has been publicised to start from October 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023. The previous round of funding ended on 30th September 2022. The DWP require a delivery plan to be submitted by the 28th October 2022. In order to meet deadlines for half-term a decision has already been taken to fund food vouchers for free school meals families during the school holidays. An urgent decision now needs to be approved for the remaining spend to allow the delivery plan to be submitted on time.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Option 1: Do Nothing This is not an option as the Council has been awarded grant funding to support vulnerable households during the winter. To not use or accept this funding would be to the detriment of Plymouth households at a time of rising energy costs.</p> <p>Option 2: Deliver food parcels Food parcels - PCC (CATERed) does not have the capacity or capability to deliver a cost effective solution due to the practicalities that would be required to produce and distribute food parcels on the scale required.</p> <p>Option 3: Provide cash payments or post office vouchers directly to claimants This option would require a significant amount of staff capacity which wouldn't be in place in time to deliver the funding. Additionally, the procurement of pre-payment cards would incur service charges.</p>
7	<p>Financial implications:</p> <p>The funding for this contract is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. The total grant for the Council is £2,294,796.82, to cover the winter of 2022/23.</p> <p>£930,000 has already been allocated for food vouchers for FSM families for the school holidays:</p>

	October half term, Christmas holidays, February half term and Easter holidays – a total of 6 weeks.			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			√	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			√	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
		√		is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that this can be considered to be an Urgent Key Decision, due to the need to submit the delivery plan to the DWP by the 28 th October. As central government funding was not announced until the 22nd September, it has not been practicable to include the decision in the Forward Plan.		
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	This proposal links to the Child Poverty agenda for the city and also A Bright Future 2021 – 26 in supporting children to stay safe and well, through the provision of adequate nutrition.		
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	None		
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes	√	(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No		(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency: This decision is urgent because of the late confirmation of funding by the Government (September 22 nd 2022). There is an urgent need to approve and submit a delivery plan for the funding to the DWP by the 28 th October 2022 and to ensure that comms are in place for the general public who are anticipating this funding being available.			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:	Councillor Laing (agreed via email)	Date	27 October 2022
	Scrutiny Committee name:	Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care OSP		

Print Name:		Councillor Jemima Laing		
Consultation				
I3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	√	(If no go to section I4)
I3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	n/a		
I3c	Date Cabinet member consulted			
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	√	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Ruth Harrell	
		Job title	Office of the Director of Public Health	
		Date consulted	14/10/2022	
Sign-off				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS65 22/23	
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN22.23.230	
		Legal (mandatory)	EJ/38851/26.10.22	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A	
		Procurement (if applicable)		
Appendices				
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Household Support Fund Framework Round 3: October 2022 to March 2023		
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment		
Confidential/exempt information				
I8a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for

		No	✓	publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature			Date of decision		27 October 2022			
Print Name	Councillor Richard Bingley, Leader of Plymouth City Council							