

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Tuesday, 3rd May, 2022, 11.00 am

Members: Councillor Peray Ahmet – Leader of the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct

3. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND IN HARINGEY (PAGES 1 - 8)

The Government through the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) has provided funding to local authorities to administer the Household Support Fund Scheme, continuing the grant for the period 1st April 2022 – 30th September 2022.

The Council has been allocated £2,406,671.72 for the six month period April – September 2022.

The objective of the Scheme is to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children struggling with the significant rise in living costs with an emphasis on supporting households with energy, food and water bills. The

report will be seeking the Leader's approval for the , the initial tranche of funding support under the Scheme to be focussed on households with children receiving Free School Meals. They will be provided with Free School Meals vouchers during the May 2022 half term. This is set out in the Household Support Fund Scheme Policy: April 2022.

The Household Support Fund is expected to support vulnerable households and families with children between the period 1st April to 30th September 2022.

This funding was announced at the end of March 2022 with draft guidance published on 4th April. The funding period has already commenced and therefore, an urgent decision is required for the administration of the funding to meet the needs of households that require urgent support.

The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities in the borough, including those of income and financial insecurity, the initial support decision will focus on the provision of Free School Meals (FSM) during the May 2022 half term whilst a second decision will consider the remainder of the funding.

Given the need to have the necessary plans in place before the May 2022 half term week and to ensure the effective delivery of the FSM support through Schools in the borough, , it is not practicable to comply with the 28-day notice requirement in Part Four, Section D, Rule 13 or the 5-day notice requirement in Part Four, Section D, Rule 4, or the General Exception procedure at Part Four, Section D, or the Call-In Procedure Rules at Part Four, Section H.

Please be advised that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has further agreed that the call-in procedure shall not apply to this urgent decision. This is because the decision is urgent and any delay in implementation caused by the call-in procedure would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests due to the fact that any delay in decision making will impact on the ability to utilise available funding to support households with children, other vulnerable households and individuals in Haringey. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the decision is both reasonable in all circumstances, and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency. This is in accordance with Part 4, Section H, and Paragraph 18 (a) and (b) of the Council Constitution.

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Friday, 29 April 2022