

MINUTES OF MEETING Urgent Decisions HELD ON Tuesday, 28th June, 2022, 1.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Seema Chandwani – Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services

ALSO ATTENDING: Thomas Skeen, Poppy Thomas, Ayshe Simsek

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

8. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND IN HARINGEY

The Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services considered the attached report which was seeking approval to the expenditure of the remaining £2,256,671.72 of the allocation for the Household Support fund in Haringey. This funding has been allocated to Councils from the government between April and September and is received in tranches. Therefore, an urgent decision was required for the administration of the funding to meet the needs of households that require urgent support, including experiencing income and financial insecurity.

To note that the funding would enable the Council to provide support to families with children, other vulnerable households, and individuals. The Household Support Fund will further allow the Council to extend and expand its support to households in food or fuel poverty.

Further to considering the report,

RESOLVED

1. To approve the expenditure of the remaining sum of the Household Support Fund allocation from the Government of £2,256,671.72 for the period April – September 2022.
2. To approve the Household Support Fund Scheme Policy: June 2022 which sets out the Council's arrangement for administering part of the additional funding and is attached at Appendix 1.

3. To delegate authority to the Director for Adults, Health and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services, to amend this policy to give effect to changes in legislation, statutory or non-statutory guidance, or directives or instructions of a similar character issued by Government.
4. To agree that this policy is subject to the availability of government funding and will terminate on 30th September 2022 unless terminated earlier.

Reasons for decision

The Government through the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) has provided funding to local authorities to administer the Household Support Fund. It is acknowledged that local authorities have the local ties and knowledge and are best placed to allocate funding according to local need.

The Guidance for the Scheme provides for local authorities to determine eligibility in their area and target support to those most in need but within the scope of conditions set by DWP. This report and the policy at Appendix 1 sets out how the Council will target and deliver support to residents. This spend is targeted to those that are most in need and is in accordance with the Scheme.

The Household Support Fund payments are expected to support households over the grant period and for funding to be spent between 1st April 2022 and 30th September 2022. There is a need for an urgent decision to be taken on the recommendation in order to ensure that the payments are made to support vulnerable people within the allotted time and in particular where funding will be used in the summer holiday periods in support for families with children who access free school meals in term time, as directly provided free school meals are not available at this time.

Alternative options considered

The alternative option considered was not to develop a Household Support Fund Policy. This was discounted as it would not have made use of potential support to Haringey residents and would have necessitated a return of the funds to central government.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date