

# MINUTES OF MEETING

**Urgent Decisions HELD ON Monday, 22nd May, 2023,**

## PRESENT:

**Councillors: Councillor Seema Chandwani (Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services)**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Sara Sutton (Assistant Director for Place Based Partnerships and Commissioning) and Felicity Foley (Committees Manager)**

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND IN HARINGEY PHASE 2: MAY 2023

The Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services considered the report which sought authority to allocate the second phase of the Household Support Fund to provide support to households in line with agreed spending, up to a total of £2,406m (half of the entire allocation of £4,813,343.44) to cover the period to 30th September 2023.

**The Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services RESOLVED to**

1. Approves the Household Support Fund Scheme Policy: May 2023 Phase 2, which sets out the Council's arrangement for administering the second part of the funding, attached in Appendix 1.
2. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director for Place Based Partnerships and Commissioning 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.
3. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director for Place Based Partnerships and Commissioning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services, to award small grants to Voluntary and Community

sector organisations to support the delivery of the scheme, in accordance with procurement regulations and local policy.

4. Agrees that this policy is subject to the availability of government funding and will terminate on 31st March 2024 unless terminated earlier.
5. Notes that a further set of recommendations for spend of the existing funding will come forward in due course, within the conditions set out by the guidance.

**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 Fund 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. The proposed decision on the Household Support Fund 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 all funding to be spent between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Appendix 1 sets out the details of the second part of the scheme to be applied in Haringey which will cover the period April through to September 2023, in line with national funding guidance and to address local need. As part of the Council's overarching approach to supporting those in need, we continue to adopt a strengths-based methodology which seeks to build routes out of poverty for local residents where possible. The Council has undertaken a needs assessment that has supported the development of this policy.

**Alternative options considered**

The alternative option considered was not to develop a Haringey Support Fund Policy. This was discounted as it would not have made use of the funds available to support Haringey residents.

A further option was to bring forward plans to allocate the total amount of funding at this stage, but this was discounted because by September the households in our Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) tool, that identifies households who are in financial stress, may change and this will ensure the funds are allocated to those most in need at that time.

CHAIR: Councillor Seema Chandwani

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....