

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE – HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

(under regulations 10(1) and 10(3) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”))

Notice is hereby given that the Cabinet Member for Children’s Service, Education and Lifelong Skills intends no earlier than 1 June 2022 to make executive decisions regarding the Household Support Fund.

These decisions are regarded as ‘key decisions’ and ordinarily under regulation 9 of the Regulations at least 28 clear days’ notice is required to be given in advance on the Forward Plan, setting out that a key decision is to be made, the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made, the name of the decision-making body and its members or the name of the individual decision maker, the date on which, or the period within which, the decision is to be made, a list of the documents submitted, the address from where copies of documents may be obtained, notice that other documents may be submitted to the decision maker and the procedure for requesting details of these documents (if any) as they become available.

Where such notice is impracticable, a general exception notice may instead be given in accordance with regulation 10 of the Regulations.

The Monitoring Officer has by written notice informed the Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee of the matter about which the decisions are to be made, namely

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Lifelong Skills is recommended as set out in the accompanying report, following receipt of the report, to agree the following (under delegated authority granted to her):

1. That approval of funding of up to £635,000 to be granted to provide multi-value food vouchers to households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support who are either also eligible for Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit, benefits-related Free School Meals or who have no children or pensioners living at the property.
2. That a grant of £60,000 be made available to Citizens Advice for them to use to financially support households with fuel bills over the 6-month period and provide a telephone signposting service to the connect4communities programme. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children’s Services and in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 5.
3. That the approval of £95,000 be used to expand and support the network of community pantries across the Isle of Wight, offering a more sustainable approach to helping households.
4. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children’s Services to approve community grant awards to organisations delivering services that

meet the criteria of the grant (as set out in paragraph 5 of the accompanying report) for targeted financial support for those in need until 30 September 2022 in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills up to the value of £40,000.

5. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to agree the fund of £30,000 to be used to assist exceptional and genuine emergency cases with housing costs in accordance with DWP grant conditions.
6. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund scheme remaining or underspent funds to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member. This will ensure that where spend does not meet the approvals set out in this report, the Isle of Wight Council can rapidly adapt the approach to ensure needs are met.

The reason why it was impracticable to have complied with the standard advance notice requirement is that whilst on 25 March 2022, the government announced an extension to the Household Support Fund as targeted financial support for those in need over the Spring and Summer period, guidance and grant determinations were only confirmed on 20th April 2022. In order to administer the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) scheme and deliver its objectives, decisions must be made as soon as possible and there is an established need to be met. A copy of this notice has been made available for inspection by the public and published on the Council's website.

Dated: 23 May 2022

Signed: Christopher Potter, Monitoring Officer