

Household Support Fund 2 1st April – 30th September 2022 Key Achievements

The Isle of Wight Council's share of the £421million Household Support Fund 2 was £1,131,576.08 and in the six-month period from 1st April – 30th September 2022 was spent in full. The range of support offered included:

Easter holiday food vouchers

Just under 5,000 eligible households with children were issued food vouchers covering the two-week school Easter holiday period, at a rate of £15 per child, per week.

Isle of Wight Food Voucher Scheme

Over 3,200 applications were individually checked and processed by a small team within Revenues and Benefits, with 52% of applicants issued with a food voucher. A further 2,000 vouchers values at £125 each were sent directly to eligible pensioners that had not applied by the end of the scheme.

Community Grants

Grants totalling just under £325,000 were awarded to 31 different community / voluntary groups and town, parish, and community councils, providing support to 14,000 households across the Island, many of which were households with children under the age of 19. Support funded through these grants included covered food parcels, air fryers / microwaves, school uniforms, bedding and the purchase of a community washing machine which is set to provide ongoing assistance to the Ventnor community.

Community Pantries

Each of the three community pantries on the Island was provided with top-up funding for them to use for the purchase of food. We also funded a contract with Bidfood which will enable the pantries to bulk buy non-perishable foods at wholesale prices for several months to come.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice were awarded a total of £74,000 which enabled them to assist over 200 households with food and utility costs, along with wider essentials such as insolvency fees clearing priority / non-priority debt including utility and water arrears. Total debts of £226,351.39 were cleared for 25 households by paying either the £90 Debt Relief Order fee or settling larger fuel arrears once all other avenues had been exhausted.

