

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE – HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 3

(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 December 2022 to make executive decisions regarding the Household Support Fund 3.

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):

Proactive targeted schemes

Food Voucher scheme

1. That the grant of **£507,000** to purchase food vouchers for residents providing support to several different cohorts be approved including:
 - (a) A one-off £500 food voucher for the 80 IWC foster carers, totalling **£40,000**. The aim would be for this voucher to be sent at the beginning of December to assist with costs leading up to Christmas, releasing household funds that can then be used towards rising utility costs.
 - (b) Two separate £50 food vouchers sent to Care Leavers over the age of 18. The intention would be for one voucher to be sent in the run up to Christmas and the other to be sent towards the end of January. This would total **£17,000** and benefit 170 care leavers.
 - (c) A one-off £150 food voucher to 900 households whose disabled children are in receipt of a gateway card. The aim would be for this to be sent direct by the voucher company during the month of January to

- help with post-Christmas costs and would utilise **£135,000** of the budget.
- (d) A £100 voucher to around 1850 households in receipt of Housing Benefit only totalling **£185,000**. It is intended that this would be sent in February to spread support across the Island throughout the whole grant period.
 - (e) A one-off £100 voucher to around 1000 Island households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support but not on a passported benefit. This would total **£100,000**. The aim would be for vouchers to be sent during January.
 - (f) Two separate £100 food voucher to 150 adults with learning difficulties working with the No Barriers Team. This would total **£30,000** with one voucher being sent as soon as possible and the other towards the end of December. A further **£19,500** would be ringfenced for use by the no-barriers team for use if clients find themselves in financial difficulties with food, utilities or wider essentials.

Living Well and Early Help Services (LWEH) Mobile Hub

- 2. That approval be given for a grant of **£15,000** to fund food supply for the Hub, making the service more sustainable, benefitting Island residents for longer.

Application based process

Support for food and utility costs

- 3. That a grant of **£75,000** be approved and made available to Citizens Advice for the purposes specified in the report of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills (attached).

Community Pantries

- 4. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve grant awards to organisations for the establishment of and delivery of three new community pantries across the Island up to the grand total value of **£75,000**.
- 5. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve funding of **£41,000** to support the three existing pantries on the Isle of Wight with the purchase of food.

Community Grants

- 6. That a fund of **£240,000** be approved to develop local initiatives where community and voluntary groups along with Town, Parish and Community Councils can apply for funding to support the community with food and fuel projects, either proactively working with residents already known to them or by offering an application scheme.

7. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve grant awards from an agreed fund of **£240,000** to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant (as set out in paragraph 5 of the report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills (attached) for targeted financial support for those in need over autumn and winter 2022.

Discretionary funding for schools

8. That approval be given for grant funding of **£100,000** to provide schools with vouchers that can be obtained following requests from members of the public asking for support with everyday essentials such as food, school uniforms and other essentials.

Exceptional Housing Costs

9. That **£10,000** be approved and made available to fund exceptional housing support as set out in the report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills (attached).

Administration and Communication Costs

10. That approval be given for funding of up to and including **£51,000** to cover reasonable administration costs for all partners which will include limited staff costs, web page design, communications and marketing support.

Contingency

11. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills, to approve the spending of any contingency funding up to and including **£17, 576.08** within the parameters of the report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills (as attached).

The reason why it was impracticable to have complied with the standard advance notice requirement is that targeted financial support for those in need over the Autumn and Winter period 2022, cannot reasonably be delayed following the award of funding from the Government. 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: 21 November 2022

Signed: Christopher Potter, Monitoring Officer