

CABINET MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION 21 JUNE 2022

Report title: Response to Increases in the Cost of Living Part 1: Household Support Fund and Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate framework and approach

Wards: All

Portfolio: David Amos: Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cost of Living

Report Authorised by: Andrew Eyres: Strategic Director Integrated Health and Care

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REPORT SUMMARY

On 3 February HM Government, through Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a package of support for rising energy costs including guidance on the administration of a Council Tax Energy Rebate and associated Discretionary Fund for households. Councils can determine locally how best to make use of the Discretionary Fund to support those suffering financial hardship as a result of the rising energy costs. The Discretionary Fund allocated to Lambeth is £1.5m.

In his Spring Statement on 23 March 2022 the Chancellor announced a further round of Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund (HSF) grant. Lambeth has been allocated £2.7m for the period 1 April – 30 September 2022. The purpose of the funding is to support those most in need to help with significantly rising living costs.

This paper sets out the framework and approach by which the council will allocate these Funds

FINANCE SUMMARY

The recommended scheme will cost £4.3m and will be funded from the Household Support Grant (£2.7m) and the Discretionary Energy Rebate Grant (£1.5) and £0.1m from earmarked reserves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To agree the framework for distribution of the £2.7m Q1-2 Household Support Fund as set out in paragraph 2.7
2. To agree the £1.5m summary framework for distribution of the Q1-2 Council Tax energy Rebate Discretionary Fund as set out in paragraph 2.7

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 On 3rd February HM Government, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a package of support for rising energy costs including guidance on the administration of a Council Tax Energy Rebate (CTER) and associated Discretionary Fund for households. Councils can determine locally how best to make use of the Discretionary Fund to support those suffering financial hardship a result of the rising cost of energy. The Discretionary Fund allocated to Lambeth is £1.5m.
- 1.2 Following a number of similar grants during the pandemic (e.g. Winter Grant Scheme and Covid Local Grant Support) the Department for Work and Pensions announced a new Household Support Fund (HSF) grant in October 2021 to support those most in need in the winter during the final stages of economic recovery. Lambeth's allocation was £2.7m and full spend was achieved largely through the provision of direct support for fuel and food to families in receipt of free school meals, top-up of the council's existing Emergency Support Scheme (renamed Household Support Scheme) and a number of direct awards to organisations operating in food and/or surplus food distribution.
- 1.3 In his Spring Statement on 23 March 2022 the Chancellor announced a further round of the Household Support Fund. Lambeth has been allocated a further £2.7m for the period 1 April – 30 September 2022. The purpose of the funding is to support those most in need to help with significantly rising living costs.
- 1.4 The criteria of the funding for phase 2 of the Household Support Fund has changed to the following:
 - a. At least a third of the funding must be supporting households with children
 - b. At least a third of the funding must support residents pensioners **[new]**
 - c. The funding must be spent on directly supporting residents (and additional overheads) or supporting residents to receive direct awards as opposed to paying for advice and guidance
- 1.5 For the purposes of this spend the council will class pensioners as residents who are eligible for a state pension prior to 30 September 2022.
- 1.6 As before, the expectation is that the funding should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy, and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
- 1.7 The council conducted an evaluation of the previous Household Support Fund spend with a group of internal cross-department colleagues to identify cohorts that were supported, and areas potential resource is needed. The council also consulted with voluntary community sector organisations to gain feedback on how the fund was allocated.
- 1.8 Given the similar target audiences of the funds, those struggling to meet energy costs in the case of the CTER Discretionary Fund, and those struggling to meet significantly rising living costs in the case of the HSF this report proposes a single framework for distribution of both funds.
- 1.9 In comparison to London or the wider UK Lambeth has a relatively high proportion of residents living on low incomes and in poverty:

- Recent residents survey figures indicate 21% of Lambeth residents predict that they will find it difficult to pay for food over the next 12 months, 34% predict they will find it difficult to pay for electricity, 27% for rent and 16% for the internet.
- 14% of Lambeth residents reported household incomes which would classify them as low-income. These low-income households are significantly more likely to foresee difficulty paying for food (48%), electricity (67%), rent (49%) and the internet (38%).¹
- Poverty significantly increases the likelihood of low birth weight, worse physical and mental health, teenage pregnancy, dying in an accident, poor education and employment opportunity, feelings of exclusion due to having fewer social contacts and access to social activities, exploitation, entering gangs and serious youth violence.
- Approximately 1 in 4 Lambeth pensioners (26.2%) are in receipt of Pension Credit implying very low incomes as compared to around 1 in 5 (17.1%) for London and just over 1 in 8 for England (11.6%).
- Based on data from 2019, around 1 in 7 Lambeth households were estimated to be in fuel poverty which was near the London average.
- It is anticipated that significantly more Lambeth households will experience food poverty and insecurity due to the increasing cost of living.
- It should also be noted that in London around 17% of workers experience in-work poverty.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

Changes to the framework from the previous approach

- 2.1 The most substantial change that the council is proposing to make to its frameworks for distribution of the combined Household Support and CTER Discretionary Funds is a shift from a combined 'push' and 'pull' approach, to a stronger emphasis on 'push' approaches.
- 2.2 In the first phase of the Household Support Fund, 61% of the funding was 'pushed' out in voucher form to families via schools (£20 per week per child). These families were identified using 'receipt of Free School Meals' as an indicator for being likely to require support. This was to reflect the significantly increased food and energy costs that families with children experience during the school holidays. Approx. 15% of the fund was spent on direct awards on food support and reducing energy bills, 5% on administration and the remaining 20% was used to provide additional funding into the council's emergency support scheme, the criteria of which were relaxed and was renamed Household Support Scheme.
- 2.3 During Q3-Q4, 12,074 individual awards were made for food and fuel support through the Household Support Scheme. Whilst this is a substantial number, the scheme requires residents to 'pull' the money out of the local authority which has barriers for people in need of support as they have to be aware of the scheme existing and then submit an application form which needs to be reviewed and agreed (staffing cost). Maintaining demand for the HSS also requires a substantial amount of communications activity (further cost) and tends to only result in sporadic rather than sustained demand.
- 2.4 The combined challenges of sustaining demand in the HSS, particularly when demand for support for energy costs is lower due to the summer months, and the need to ensure that 33% of the Household Support Fund reaches pensioners necessitates a change in approach to distribution of the combined HSF and CTER Discretionary Funds. It is proposed that the authority switches to an approach whereby the majority of support available from these grants is 'pushed' out to residents most in need. Further information on how those residents will be identified and the means of distribution is detailed below.

- 2.5 Officers will monitor and evaluate the impact of the April – September 2022 Household Support Fund and compare with the impact of the previous round (October – March 2022). This evaluation will include how much money residents saved through these interventions and will inform plans for the supporting residents with the cost of living increases in Winter 2022.
- 2.6 Lambeth Council consulted with internal departments, schools and voluntary sector organisations on the proposed allocation of these funds. This included consultations with food organisations, advice agencies and Lambeth Age UK. Schools and voluntary sector organisations will be notified of the launch of proposed interventions once confirmed.

Summary of framework

- 2.7 It is proposed the total funding is allocated using the following criteria with further detail for each allocation provided in the remainder of the report:

Eligibility criteria	Planned activities	Anticipated spend (£)	Funding source
<u>Direct financial support to households</u>			
Household is in a CT Band E-H property AND in receipt of Council Tax Support	£150 post-office payout	383,100	CTER DF
Household in receipt of Council Tax Support AND NOT a pensioner	£50 post-office payout	757,600	HSF and/or CTER DF
Household in receipt of Council Tax Support AND a pensioner	£100 post-office payout	810,500	HSF and/or CTER DF
Has a child eligible for free school meals in the household	£20 per child per week of the school holidays	1,908,620	HSF and/or CTER DF
Low income/crisis	Fuel Bank Foundation	15,000	HSF and/or CTER DF
Have No Recourse to Public Funds and a health and social care needs	£25 award for single households £50 award for households with children	17,700	HSF
<u>Material support to residents</u>			
Direct awards to surplus food distribution/Foodbank/advice agencies	Support for Food and energy	140,000	HSF
<u>Indirect support to residents</u>			
By referral	Reducing household bills – Energy Awareness & vulnerability check	50,000	HSF
Resident communications	Targeted communications to residents regarding support they may be entitled to	60,398	HSF
Support to residents to access funds	Support to vulnerable residents to access entitlement	75,000	HSF

Processing payments to residents	Staff to process payments and associated costs	80,000	HSF
		4,287,918	

Detailed proposals

Name:	Council Tax Energy Rebate for those not living in Band A-D properties
Criteria:	Household in a Council Tax Band E-H property AND in receipt of Council Tax Support
Activity:	£150 post-office payout
Total:	£383,100

- 2.8 The council has already begun to distribute £16m of support from the core Council Tax energy Rebate scheme through payments of £150 to every eligible household (all households in Council Tax Bands A-D). This proposal will ensure that residents who live in higher banded properties (E-H), but who receive Council Tax Support (i.e. receive income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), guaranteed Pension Credit or Income Support) receive £150.
- 2.9 There are 2554 households within this cohort. Payments will be made to these residents through Post Office payout which is already utilised by Lambeth Council to send residents cash directly. Residents will be sent a code through letters and email than can then be exchanged for money at any Post Office branch. All communications will be translated into the most spoken languages in the borough.
- 2.10 The Post Office administers payments to residents but a Post Office account is not necessary to receive the funds. Residents who have not claimed their Post Office payment will receive an in-reach phone call to identify anything barriers to access and look to solve these with support or by providing alternative means of receiving funds where necessary.

Name:	Additional support for low-income households (non-pensioners)
Criteria:	Household in receipt of Council Tax Support AND NOT a pensioner
Activity:	£50 Post Office payout
Total:	£757,600

- 2.11 The increase in food and energy prices disproportionately impacts households with lower incomes. Poorer households have less disposable income and less flex in their budget and spend disproportionately more on energy costs¹ 'Residents in receipt of Council Tax Support' is a helpful proxy indicator to identify households with low-income levels. This proposal will ensure that additional support is provided to the c. 15,000 non-pensioner recipients of council tax support in the borough as follows:

	No. of CTS recipients	Award	Total cost
Vulnerable with Children	4927	£50	£246,350
Other	10,225	£50	£511,250
Total	15,152		£757,600

¹ <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/cost-living-crisis>

2.12 As above, payments will be made to residents through Post Office payout and communications will be translated into the most common languages in the borough.

Name:	Additional support for low-income pensioner households
Criteria:	Household in receipt of Council Tax Support AND a pensioner
Activity:	£100 Post Office payout
Total:	£810,500

2.13 The increase in food and energy prices disproportionately impacts households with lower incomes. Poorer households have less disposable income and less flex in their budget and spend disproportionately more on energy costs² 'Residents in receipt of Council Tax Support' is a helpful proxy indicator to identify households with low income levels. This proposal will ensure that additional support is provided to the c. 8,000 pensioner recipients of council tax support in the borough.

2.14 This proposal has a particular focus on support to pensioners reflecting the requirement for 33% of the Household Support Fund to be allocated to supporting pensioners.

2.15 The funding will be provided per household for residents who are pensioners rather than to individual residents, mirroring the payments given for residents in payments A-D.

2.16 As above, payments will be made to residents through Post Office payout.

Name:	Additional support for households with children during the school holidays
Criteria:	Has a child eligible for free school meals in the household
Activity:	£20 per child per week of the school holidays (7 weeks)
Total:	£1,908,620

2.17 The council has a longstanding commitment to supporting families with children during the school holidays to reflect the increased costs, particularly of fuel and food, of having the children at home. The council uses 'child in receipt of free school meals' as a proxy indicator for low income levels in the household and to enable support to be proportionate to the number of children.

2.18 The contribution for each eligible family will amount to £20 per child for each week of the holiday period towards food and energy bills.

- Summer half term – 1 week
- Summer holiday – 6 weeks

2.19 The criteria for eligibility for these vouchers will be school aged children entitled to free school meals, children who are eligible for 2-year-old pupil place and are classified as vulnerable and 3 and 4 year olds entitled to early years Pupil Premium. Based on an FSM pupil population of 11,704 and Early Years pupils of 2,542 this award amounts to £1.9m. There is an expectation that the projection on FSM numbers in schools could increase during the remainder of the school year due to the increase in families becoming eligible.

Name:	Supporting residents with no recourse to public funds
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² <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/cost-living-crisis>

Criteria:	Residents with no recourse to public funds and meet health and social care criteria
Activity:	£50 per month for families with children and £25 per month for single households
Total:	£17,700

- 2.20 The council's No Recourse to Public Funds team works with vulnerable families and individuals with care and support needs. The grant terms and conditions state that the council will be eligible to provide a basic safety net to people, regardless of immigration status, where there is a community care need or a risk to a child's wellbeing.
- 2.21 The allocated funding equates to a food and fuel allowance of £50 per month for families with children and £25 per month for single individuals with community care needs or serious health concerns.
- 2.22 This cohort is often hard to reach and unlikely to apply for funding when needed. By providing the funding directly to the No Recourse to Public Funds team for allocation, Lambeth can ensure known residents who fit the grant criteria and would otherwise be at risk this winter are given support for food and fuel.

Name:	Fuelbank Foundation support
Criteria:	Residents with pre-pay meter and meet other low-income/crisis qualifying criteria
Activity:	Fuel vouchers
Total:	£15,000

- 2.23 The Housing Support Team supports Lambeth council residents who are impacted by Benefit issues, residents who are risk of evictions and Lambeth residents deemed vulnerable. The housing support Team have been working in partnership with the Fuel Foundation since November 2020. The partnership was formed to address what was then, a growing problem for Lambeth residents, fuel poverty. However, two years on; fuel poverty has now morphed into a much bigger issue not just for Lambeth but for the UK, due to various reasons but most notably due to the recent energy tariff increases. Fuel vouchers are provided to Lambeth residents in any tenures e.g., council tenants, Housing associations residents, private sector residents and temporary accommodation customers.
- 2.24 The vouchers support an array of vulnerable cohorts e.g., welfare impacted residents, care leavers, pensioners, and residents in high arrears and at risk of eviction Fuel vouchers in value of £30 are issued in the Spring/Summer seasons and vouchers in value of £49 are issued in Autumn/winter seasons. To be eligible residents must have a Pre-payment meter and;
- living without heat light and power because the meters have switched off and they have no finance to reconnect
 - Or when the meters will be switched off imminently (i.e., within the next 24-48 hours) and again resident does not have the finances to avoid self-disconnection
 - Residents at risk of eviction, in high rental arrears and on low income
- 2.25 From January 2020 to May 2022, a total of 612 Lambeth households have benefited from this incentive totalling to a value of £22,155.28.

Name:	Reducing household bills – Energy Awareness & vulnerability check
Criteria:	
Activity:	

Total: £50,000

- 2.26 Increased energy costs will be an ongoing issue for vulnerable residents, particularly over the winter months. To support households to reduce their fuel bills on an ongoing basis and reduce the amount of repeat applications for fuel assistance, it is proposed that £50,000 of funding be allocated to extend the current delivery of the Groundwork London Green Doctor programme in Lambeth to support an additional 400 households experiencing fuel poverty (200 remote, 200 in-person visits).
- 2.27 Analysis pre-Covid demonstrated that the Green Doctor service saved households on average more than the amount required to take them out of fuel poverty (according to ONS definition), and that the benefits of learning from the scheme (e.g. how to switch tariff/understand your bill, how to manage your household energy including thermostat/impact of 30 degree washes/heating what you need, small measures fitted, water use advice) last for years. The service is also able to administer fuel vouchers and undertake a health triage to assess vulnerability, including onwards referrals into other services.
- 2.28 The proposed scheme is an expansion of the existing offer for Lambeth residents available through the [South London Healthy Homes](#) scheme, so requires minimal set up. Residents accessing the Emergency Support scheme for fuel vouchers would be encouraged to take up a Green Doctor appointment and also receive information on the more extensive sustainability support available for low-income households through the Lambeth Green Homes Grant.

Name: Direct awards to surplus food distribution (Healthy Living Platform)/Trussell Trust foodbanks
Criteria: Determined by provider
Activity: Additional support to at scale food and surplus distribution to meet the impact of increased demand and costs
Total: £140,000

- 2.29 The council has an existing arrangement with Healthy Living Platform (HLP) to operate a surplus food co-ordination and distribution service providing surplus food to a range of community organisations across the borough. The Trussell Trust (TT) operate five foodbanks in the borough distributing food parcels to residents referred into the service from a single distribution hub. Both work closely with voluntary and community sector groups across the borough that work with our most vulnerable residents.
- 2.30 This funding will be split 50/50 and provided to HLP/TT to enable them to meet the impact of increased demand and costs.

Name: Communications, staffing and administration
Criteria:
Activity: Staffing to support advice agencies to assist residents with completing applications for funding, communications with residents, administration of Post Office payout to residents
Total: £205,000

- 2.31 A communications campaign will be required to ensure that residents are aware of the support that is available to them and are taking up the payout opportunities presented to them. Additional overheads potentially include additional staffing to administer the payout/voucher processes,

costs of the post-office payout process and additional support to residents making claims through the Household Support Scheme. These costs are not expected to exceed £205,000 and include a contingency.

- 2.32 Following feedback from voluntary sector organisations, Lambeth is proposing to fund staffing to support residents with accessing the funding they are entitled to, particularly those who may be digitally excluded. These staff members will be based at local advice agencies as well as Lambeth's Health and Wellbeing bus in order to support residents across the borough. This support fits the grant criteria as it is assisting residents to apply for direct funds.
- 2.33 There will also be an administrative cost of £80,000 to process the Post Office payout for residents, including staffing costs.
- 2.34 Total scheme administration costs (communications, support processing the payments, support for advice agencies with form filling and overheads) equal approximately 5% of the funds total.

Contract Management

2.35 N/A

Finance

- 2.36 Based on the projections set out in the report, the scheme will cost £4.3m and will be funded from the Household Support Grant (£2.7m) and the Discretionary Energy Rebate Grant (£1.5m). Funding requirement in excess of the total grant awards will be provided from earmarked reserves.

3. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 3.0 The council should adhere to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to billing authorities in England in the administration of the matters set out in this report. The guidance is intended to support billing authorities in administering the Tax Rebate and associated Discretionary Fund for households, announced on 3 February and the guidance issued by the DWP for the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant announced in March by the Government under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, enabling the council to administer the scheme and provide assistance to households most in need. The council falls within the definition of a billing authority as defined in section 1(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 3.1 The Council should also maintain a record of expenditure under the Council Tax Rebate and Discretionary Fund, and ensure that it is able to monitor and report on expenditure and numbers of benefiting households (both from the Rebate Scheme and Discretionary Fund) at Parliamentary constituency level and local authority level. There are further reporting requirements for the Household Support Fund scheme.
- 3.2 The council must also have regard to Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 'the public sector equality duty' in administering the schemes.
- 3.3 This proposed key decision was entered in the Forward Plan on 16 May 2022 and the necessary 28 clear days' notice has been given. In addition, the Council's Constitution requires the report to be published on the website for five clear days before the proposed decision is approved by the Cabinet Member. Any representations received during this period must be considered by the

decision-maker before the decision is taken. A further period of five clear days - the call-in period – must then elapse before the decision is enacted. If the decision is called-in during this period, it cannot be enacted until the call-in has been considered and resolved.

4. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 4.0 A Household Support Fund working group was established and has met weekly since the announcement of this fund. It is chaired by Associate Director Public Health with representation from across council departments including Children’s Services, Financial Resilience, Housing, Public Health, and Revenues and Benefits.
- 4.1 Conversations on the allocation of the funding and feedback on previous rounds have been held in the regular Food VCS roundtable meetings.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The main risks that impede on the successful delivery of this fund are:

Table 1 – Risk Register:

Item	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control Measures
1	Pressure on school admin resource to distribute food/energy bill vouchers	2	4	8	Schools have been advised of proposal and collaborative working with Education team and schools will continue to provide support
2	Low-income households with children who are not in receipt of FSM are not supported by this fund	4	2	8	Ensure strong communications campaign so these families are aware of and can access 'other households' fund; Use of CTS as low-income measure for other support
3	Take-up of post office payout is low	3	4	12	Communications campaign to support 'push' approach; use of follow-up approaches incl. community engagement; potential to undertake door-knocking
4	CTS and FSM are relatively blunt indicators for low income, with a risk of excluding some residents	3	2	6	Develop analytic capability to better identify residents in need

Key

Likelihood	Very Likely = 4	Likely = 3	Unlikely = 2	Very Unlikely = 1
Impact	Major = 8	Serious = 4	Significant = 2	Minor = 1

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 All protected characteristic groups have been considered and will be reflected within the distributions of the funds. The spending of this grant will positively impact protected characteristic

groups. Lambeth's spending of this grant will include targeting demographics of vulnerable residents.

- 6.2 The households receiving funding through the Post Office payout reflects the demographics of the borough. 45% of the households in receipt of funds are Black, Asian or multi-ethnic households. In total, 43% of residents in total are from Black, Asian or multi-ethnic backgrounds.
- 6.3 In total, 14% of residents in Lambeth have a disability. 30% of the households receiving funding through the Post Office payout contain a member of the household with a disability.
- 6.4 Within our school aged children who will receive provision, children who are eligible for 2-year-old pupil place and are classified as vulnerable and year 3 and -year4 year olds entitled to early years Pupil Premium will be positively impacted by this fund.
- 6.5 An EIA for the previous spend of the children's allocation is attached as there has been no change to the equality impacts from the last spend of the grant.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 There are no community safety implications.

8. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental

- 8.1 Any committed spend of this fund will refer to the corporate carbon reduction plan in line with the council's ambition to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.

Health

- 9.1 The alleviation of food poverty is recognised in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Corporate Parenting

- 9.2 There is no direct impact on the Council's corporate parenting duties and responsibilities as a result of this decision.

Staffing and accommodation

- 9.3 Not applicable.

Responsible Procurement

- 9.4 Not applicable.

10 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 10.1 The table below details the stages and deadlines for implementing the recommendations

Activity	Proposed Date
Date published on Forward Plan	16.05.22
Publication on Decisions online	13.06.22

Officer or Cabinet Member Decision	21.06.22
End of Call-in Period (key decisions only)	28.06.22

AUDIT TRAIL

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor David Amos	Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living	27.5.22	30.5.22	Throughout
Andrew Eyres, Strategic Director	Integrated Health and Care	18.5.22	19.5.22	Throughout
Fiona McDermott Strategic Director	Finance and Investment	18.5.22	25.5.22	
Fiona Connolly, Strategic Director	Children's Services	18.5.22	25.5.22	
Eleanor Purser and Sara Waller, Co-Strategic Directors	Sustainable Growth and Opportunity	18.5.22	25.5.22	
Nabeel Khan, Director	Economy, Culture, Skills	18.5.22	20.5.22	
Alison May, AD for Skills and Employment	Economy, Culture, Skills	18.5.22	19.5.22	
Abrilli Philip Director, Education and Learning	Children's Services	18.5.22	18.5.22	
Ruth Hutt, Director, Public Health	Adults and Health	18.5.22	18.5.22	
Natasa Paterson, Director	Resident Experience and Digital	18.5.22	18.5.22	
Hamant Bharadia, Finance	Finance and Property	16.5.22	18.5.22	Finance summary
Dominique Johnston-Franklin, Finance	Finance and Property	16.5.22	18.5.22	Finance summary
Andrew Pavlou, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	18.5.22	20.5.22	4.1
Sarah Keeble, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	18.5.22	19.5.22	Throughout

REPORT HISTORY

Original discussion with Cabinet Member	
Report deadline	N/A
Date final report sent	N/A
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	Yes
Date first appeared on forward plan	16.5.22
Key decision reasons	Expenditure, income or savings in excess of £500,000
Background information	Household support fund: guidance for councils Council Tax Energy Rebate guidance for councils
Appendices	Children's EIA, EIA for this spend

APPROVAL BY CABINET MEMBER OR OFFICER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEME OF DELEGATION

I confirm I have consulted Finance, Legal, Democratic Services and the Procurement Board, and taken account of their advice and comments in completing the report for approval:

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Post: Tom Barrett, AD Covid Response

I confirm I have consulted the relevant Cabinet Members, including the Leader of the Council (if required), and approve the above recommendations:

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Post: Cllr David Amos, Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living

Any declarations of interest (or exemptions granted): None

Any conflicts of interest: None

Any dispensations: None