


Special Urgent Decision	
Decision Type	Special Urgent
Date notice was placed on FWP	Subject to approval of Chair of OSB
Date decision to be taken	1 May 2024
Decision maker	Executive
Lead Executive Member/s Have they been consulted Yes	Executive Member for Finance and Governance – Councillor Nicky Walker
Title of Report	Household Support Fund 2024
Key decisions to be taken	<p>That Executive approve:</p> <p>The Household Support Fund delivery plan for 2024, which will be delivered between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 to target four main groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families with children and in receipt of benefits. • Pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) and in receipt of Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (PCGC) • Application-based awards for residents not in receipt of CTR. • Singles/Couples in receipt of benefits <p>A total of £1.521m will be distributed to the above groups, with the remaining 8% (£132,289) - allocated to the administrative cost involved with delivery of the plan.</p> <p>Any remaining funds following implementation of the delivery plan (and administrative costs) are allocated to Council Tax accounts, with a then current award of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) and where an outstanding balance remains following the issue of a summons in 2024/25 financial year. This may also be widened to incorporate accounts not in receipt of CTR.</p> <p>That delegated authority is provided to the Director of Finance to make any minor revisions/modifications to the scheme and make decisions in respect of any remaining funds (as outlined in para 4) to ensure the scheme is distributed in line with the guidance and within the defined timescales.</p>

	<p>This is a key decision that impacts on two or more awards and will incur expenditure above £250,000.</p>
<p>Rationale for exemption / exception and implication that any delay/publication may have</p>	<p>The special urgent decision is required as Central Government advised of a further round of the Household Support Fund (HSF) in the Spring Budget. This funding was due to end, therefore the decision by Central Government to continue has only just been made, hence the short timescale for implementation.</p> <p>Following direction from Central Government, the scheme for 24/25 requires Executive approval and until such approval is provided the Local Authority is prevented from distributing any funds.</p> <p>In addition the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) require confirmation of an approved delivery plan by 10 May 2024.</p> <p>The decision is unable to comply with the notice periods in part 6.22 or the forward work programme requirements in part 6.32 of the Constitution. The general exception in 6.35 cannot be followed as the decision must be made urgently to approve the Household Support Fund and delivery plan, for submission of the delivery plan to DWP, to start to distribute the funds to vulnerable residents and deliver the scheme as a matter of urgency. Therefore the request is made for an exemption for special urgency for the decision under Part 6.36 of the Constitution.</p>

<p>Proper Officer response</p>	
<p>Proper Officer</p>	<p>Charlotte Benjamin – Monitoring Officer</p> 
<p>Proper Officer Decision / Rationale</p>	<p>Noted and accepted that the decision sought, if made, needs to be implemented urgently without delay to enable the approval of the Household Support Fund and delivery of the scheme as set out above. Therefore the general exception in part 6.35 of the constitution cannot be followed and the decision cannot</p>

	reasonably be deferred. Special Urgency of this decision applies under Part 6.36 of the constitution
Date Chair of Council Consulted	n/a
Chair of Council approved Yes / No	n/a
Date Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board notified / consulted	30 April 2024
Chair of OSB approved Yes/No	Yes
Subject to Call in Yes / No	No