

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

<b>Date:</b> Thursday 20th April, 2023
<b>Time:</b> 2.30 pm
<b>Venue:</b> Spencer Room

### AGENDA

1. Housing Support Fund 3 - 20

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Wednesday 19 April 2023

### MEMBERSHIP

Councillor S Walker

### Assistance in accessing information

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, 01642 729645, [susie\\_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Finance
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
<b>Date:</b>	20 April 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Household Support Fund 2023/24
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	Vulnerability
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £150,000 and have a significant impact in two or more wards
<b>Urgent:</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	The plan is subject to Executive and S151 Officer approval and must be confirmed to the DWP by 17 May 2023.

<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>This report outlines the basis on which the Council should adopt a new scheme for the Household Support Fund. Funding of £3.3 million has been provided by Central Government, the funds are to be distributed to Residents of the town between April 23 and March 24.</p> <p>The report recommends that the Executive Member for Finance and Governance approves the adoption of a scheme based on the Central Government guidance dated 27 February 2023 for the year commencing 01 April 2023.</p> <p>There is no financial impact to the Council. As individual portfolio holder for Finance and Governance, the Executive Member is responsible as per the constitution scheme of delegation for approval of such policies, <b>plans and strategies</b> which are not part of the financial and policy framework.</p> <p>Without this decision, Middlesbrough residents cannot benefit from the funds provided by Central Government which are intended to support those most in need and to help with the global inflationary challenges and the significant rising cost of living. The alternative would leave the Council open to criticism both by central government and residents, given the express expectation that Councils would use the funding provided.</p>

## **Purpose**

1. The purpose of the report is provide an overview of the scheme as outlined in the delivery plan at Appendix A which requires Executive member approval and Section 151 Officer approval for the financial year April 23 to March 24, based on Central Government guidance dated 27 February 2023. The delivery plan must be communicated to the DWP by 17 May 2023.

## **Background and relevant information**

2. On 17 November 2022 in the Autumn Statement the Chancellor announced, as part of a number of measures to provide help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living, that the Household Support Fund (HSF) would be extended to April 2023 to March 2024.
3. Individual local authorities are expected to adopt a local scheme and determine how the funding provided is to be distributed. The amount provided to Middlesbrough is £3,307,230.00.
4. Guidance provided states that Local Authorities must make sure that the mandatory element of application-based support delivered through the scheme is clearly advertised to residents and is available throughout the majority of the fund period and the scheme must be published on the Council's website.
5. The value of individual awards is to be determined by Local Authorities in accordance with the parameters set out in the guidance.
6. A number of the suggested initiatives are based on previous household support schemes that have worked successfully and which have been endorsed by groups such as financial inclusive groups and other partnering organisations and will follow a similar criteria.

## **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

7. That the Executive Member for Finance and Governance approves the delivery plan required by the Department for Work and Pensions and is as detailed below and subject to Central Government Guidance.
8. Schemes will be implemented generally in accordance with the qualifying criteria applied in the most recent household support scheme. Where the criteria do not exist, or minor adjustments are required to ensure efficient operation then decision making is delegated to the Head of Resident and Business Support.

## **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

9. The Council is required to adopt a scheme to allow Middlesbrough residents to benefit from the funding provided to minimise the consequences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.
10. The attached delivery plan outlines how the funds will be distributed. The scheme is designed to support households with children, pensioners, disabled and other

households who may be experiencing financial difficulties brought about by the cost-of-living increase.

11. Subject to approval awards will be made on the follow basis – see below. Should any funds remain these will be allocated to council tax accounts based on a qualifying criteria which will be determined subject to remaining funds.

Children	Pensioners	Disabled	Other
Households eligible for Free School Meals. £100 payable over 3 payments. (£900k)	In receipt of CTR or Pension Credit Guarantee Application and Automated payment methods. £75.00 single £100.00 for a couple (£295k)	In receipt of higher rate of DLA or enhanced PIP with CTR or HB Automated process. £50.00 per household. (£225k)	Not in receipt of benefits. Telephone Application. Amount to be determined. (£250k)
Application based claim for those in receipt of CTR/UC/HB £100 payable over 3 payments. (£200k)			Community Support (All households composites). Amount to be determined. (£200k)
New Mothers Voucher of £50.00 (£100k)			Homeless Support Amount to be determined (£20k)
Holiday Activities and Food programme. (£59.4k)			Cost of Living Support Initiatives Amount to be determined. (£90k)
Telephone based application for non CTR residents (£250k)			3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Support Differing amount based on provider. (£210k)
Section 17 Additional Support (£100k)			Advice & Support To be determined. (£40k)
			Housing Benefit/Housing Support To be determined. (£55k)

**Anticipated spend circa £3m. Although it should be noted that the above table excludes any administration costs.**

12. The scheme has been designed to provide support throughout the year. Payments will be tapered over the course of the year to reduce household dependencies as Central Government have not suggested that support will continue beyond March 2024.

13. The plan will be subject to review periodically to allow alterations to be made should the scheme requirements need to change to keep pace with the cost-of-living crisis.
14. Suitable controls will be put in place to minimise the risk of fraud such as bank account checks. Local Authorities have access to a range of data sources and checks will be carried out against this data to verify identity of recipients. Where fraud is identified appropriate actions will be taken to address this via the council's fraud solution.

**Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

15. Should the Council choose not to implement Central Government intentions, this would leave the Council open to criticism both by Central Government and the residents of the town, given the express expectation that Councils would use the funding available to support the residents of the town in meeting the cost-of-living increase.

**Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

16. If agreed, the scheme will be implemented with support being provided to some of the town's most vulnerable residents, with an allocation of £3.3m being allocated over the financial year April 23 to March 24.

**Legal**

17. Central Government guidance provides Local Authorities with the option to set its own scheme through funding provided and whilst there are no legal requirements to implement a scheme, should the Council decline, this would subject the Local Authority to criticism by both Central Government and residents of the town.

**Strategic priorities and risks**

18. The proposed scheme will contribute as follows to the Council's strategic priorities:

<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
<i>Support will be provided to thousands of residents across the town.</i>	<i>The funding will support the Local Economy.</i>	<i>The funding is intended to enhance local spending.</i>

19. The scheme will avoid the small risk of harm to the Council's reputation from failing to support residents who are suffering financial hardship

**Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection**

20. The proposed scheme has been designed in response to Central Government guidance, and there will be no negative impacts as a result of the decision.

**Financial**

21. The decision has no cost to the Council as the scheme is fully funded by Central Government.

**Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Implementation of the plan, promoted through various channels.	Janette Savage	Immediately following approval.
Periodic Review of the Scheme	Janette Savage	Every 3 months.

## Appendices

22. Delivery Plan (Appendix A) and Impact Assessment

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Department for Work and Pensions	Guidance - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024: Household Support Fund guidance for county councils and unitary authorities in England	2023

**Contact: Janette Savage - Head of Resident & Business Support.**

**Email:** [Janette\\_savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Janette_savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

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## Guidance for completing the Delivery Plan for Household Support Fund 4

Before completing this template, please refer to the 'Delivery Plan reporting requirements' section of the detailed guidance document.

Please ensure you complete the following tabs:

- 1 - Governance
- 2 - Anticipated Spend
- 3 - Anticipated Volumes
- 4 - Anticipated No of Households
- 5 - Planned Activities

The delivery plan should cover the anticipated value of grants for vulnerable households.

### **You need to return the delivery plan by 17 May 2023.**

When submitting your delivery plan to DWP; please attach and name the excel spreadsheet as follows -

Filename: HSF4DP\_RRR\_MMY (where RRR is your LA code and date of return is in MMY format) for example Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority's May 2023 return would be labelled **HSF4DP\_007\_0523.xlsx**.

Send the completed delivery plan, **including the name of your LA in the subject line** to the DWP to:

[lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk)

Your delivery plan must include your Cabinet Member's name and email address. The aim of this process is to provide assurance the delivery plan is accurate. **We also require you to copy the email of your Cabinet Member into the email sent to DWP when you return the delivery plan.**

Reasonable administration costs are funded as part of the grant.

## Traffic Light Guidance System

The Traffic Light Guidance System is used throughout the delivery plan to help inform the user and the Cabinet Member of any outstanding required inputs.

The green circle with a white tick indicates that the adjacent table is compliant:



The red circle with a white cross indicates that the adjacent table is non-compliant:



HSF4 Delivery plan



1) LA details

Local authority	LA code	Has the return been completed in full?
Middlesbrough UA	LA041	

Notes  
To complete the Governance tab, please ensure to:  
a) choose your Local Authority name in Table 1  
b) enter the return date in Table 2 (dd/mm/yyyy)  
c) complete all cells in Table 3

A summary and explanation of the traffic light system is included below and in the guidance tab. It details how the system is applied throughout the template.

When a green circle with a white tick appears next to Tables 1 to 3, the tables are compliant.

When a green circle with a white tick appears in Table 1 "Has the return been completed in full?", the delivery plan is compliant and ready for submission.

2) Reporting period

Reporting period	Report type	Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)
01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024	Delivery Plan	01/05/23

3) Governance

Cabinet Member (name)	Cabinet Member's email	Is the Cabinet Member copied into the return email? (dropdown)	Section 151 Officer (name)	Section 151 Officer's email	Is the Section 151 Officer/CFO copied into the return email?
Stefan Walker	<a href="mailto:Stefan.Walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk">Stefan.Walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk</a>	Yes	Andrew Humble	<a href="mailto:Andrew.Humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk">Andrew.Humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk</a>	Yes

4) Totals

Anticipated spend for vulnerable households (£)	Anticipated admin costs (£)	Anticipated total LA spend (£)	Allocation (£)	Percentage of allocation accounted for in delivery plan (%)
£ 2,974,400.00	£ 330,723.00	£ 3,305,123.00	£ 3,307,230	100%

Traffic Light Guidance System

The traffic light guidance system is used throughout this workbook to help inform the user, Cabinet Member and Section 151 officer of any outstanding required inputs. The icons can be found next to each table.

The green circle with a white tick indicates that the adjacent table is compliant:



The red circle with a white cross indicates that the adjacent table is non-compliant:



For LA-PED use only:

Governance	
Spend	
Volumes	
Households helped	
Planned activities	

End

01/04/2023 - 30/06/2023  
01/04/2023 - 30/09/2023  
01/04/2023 - 31/12/2023  
01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

## HSF4 Anticipated spend

### Notes

The totals cells which autopopulate have been greyed out and locked for editing. Please only input into the green cells.

The totals in the autopopulated cells of tables 6 to 9 must be the same for the return to be compliant.

Please input values in full (e.g. 120,000.00) to enable us to process the return accordingly. Only numbers (eg 123.00) can be entered into each cell. If any other format is inputted an error message will appear.

The traffic light system will help you ensure the template is completed in full. For the return to be compliant, all traffic lights must be green with a white tick.

If there is no anticipated spend to report, in order to enable the green light with white tick next to each table, the cells should still be completed with 0 (zero as a numerical value rather than typing out 'NIL', for example). This will help us process the return promptly for you.

'Has the spend tab been completed correctly?' - the traffic light will turn green with a white tick once Tables 5 to 9 are compliant.

The acronym FSM used in the tables below refers to Free School Meals.

5) Anticipated admin spend	
Admin spend	
£	330,723.00

Traffic light check	
Has the anticipated spend tab been completed correctly?	
	✔

6) Anticipated spend (£) split by household composition				
Households with children (£)	Households with pensioners (£)	Households with a disabled person (£)	Other households (£)	Anticipated total spend (by household composition) (£)
£ 1,858,350.00	£ 383,050.00	£ 300,950.00	£ 432,050.00	£ 2,974,400.00

7) Anticipated spend (£) split by category							
Food (excluding FSM support in the holidays) (£)	FSM support in the holidays (£)	Energy and water (£)	Essentials linked to energy and water (£)	Wider essentials (£)	Housing costs (£)	Advice services (£)	Anticipated total spend (by category) (£)
£ 1,596,400.00	£ -	£ 658,000.00	£ 160,000.00	£ 500,000.00	£ 40,000.00	£ 20,000.00	£ 2,974,400.00

8) Anticipated spend (£) split by types of support					
Vouchers (£)	Cash awards (£)	Third party organisations (£)	Tangible items (£)	Other (£)	Anticipated total spend (by types of support) (£)
£ 1,790,000.00	£ 405,000.00	£ 269,400.00	£ 200,000.00	£ 310,000.00	£ 2,974,400.00

9) Anticipated spend (£) split by access routes			
Application-based support (£)	Proactive support (£)	Other (£)	Anticipated total spend (by access routes) (£)
£ 1,150,000.00	£ 1,535,000.00	£ 289,400.00	£ 2,974,400.00

End

## HSF4 Anticipated volumes

### Notes

The totals cells which autopopulate have been greyed out and locked for editing. Please only input into the blue cells.

Please only input whole numbers. If any other format is inputted an error message will appear.

The traffic light system will help you ensure the template is completed in full. For the return to be compliant, all traffic lights must be green with a white tick.

If there are no anticipated volumes to report, in order to enable the green light with white tick next to each table, the cells should still be completed with 0 (zero as a numerical value rather than typing out 'NIL', for example).

The acronym FSM used in the tables below refers to Free School Meals.

### 10) Anticipated volume of awards split by household composition

Households with children	Households with pensioners	Households with a disabled person	Other households	Anticipated total volume of awards (by household composition)
58137	6284	6232	5382	76035

### 11) Anticipated volume of awards split by category

Food (excluding FSM support in the holidays)	FSM support in the holidays	Energy and water	Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider essentials	Housing costs	Advice services	Anticipated total volume of awards (by category)
57402	0	11632	582	5551	200	668	76035

### 12) Anticipated volume of awards split by types of support

Vouchers	Cash awards	Third party organisations	Tangible items	Other	Anticipated total volume of awards (by types of support)
42477	5317	24869	727	2645	76035

### 13) Anticipated volume of awards split by access routes

Application-based support	Proactive support	Other support	Anticipated total volume of awards (by access routes)
13210	37288	25537	76035

End

**HSF4 Anticipated number of households helped**

**Notes**  
 The totals cells which autopopulate have been greyed out and locked for editing. Please only input into the blue cells.  
 Please only input whole numbers. If any other format is inputted an error message will appear.  
 The traffic light system will help you ensure the template is completed in full. For the return to be compliant, all traffic lights must be green with a white tick.  
 If there are no anticipated numbers to report, in order to enable the green light with white tick next to each table, the cells should still be completed with 0 (zero as a numerical value rather than typing out 'NIL', for example).  
 The acronym FSM used in the tables below refers to Free School Meals.

**14) Anticipated number of households helped split by household composition**

Households with children	Households with pensioners	Households with a disabled person	Other households	Anticipated total number of vulnerable households helped (by household composition)
20311	6247	6195	5345	38098

**15) Anticipated number of households helped split by category**

Food (excluding FSM support in the holidays)	FSM support in the holidays	Energy and water	Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider essentials	Housing costs	Advice services	Anticipated total number of vulnerable households helped (by category)
21080	0	10017	582	5551	200	668	38098

**16) Anticipated number of households helped split by types of support**

Vouchers	Cash awards	Third party organisations	Tangible items	Other	Anticipated total number of vulnerable households helped (by types of support)
15588	5317	13821	727	2645	38098

**17) Anticipated number of households helped split by access routes**

Application-based support	Proactive support	Other	Anticipated total number of vulnerable households helped (by access routes)
8321	15288	14489	38098

End

**HSP4 Planned activities**

**Notes**  
 All grey boxes require a written response.  
 If there is nothing to report in a cell, write "N/A". Only use "N/A" where you have no reported spend for that category. For example, if you have reported a spend of 0 for tangible items, you will record "N/A" in the box below "tangible items".  
 Any sections which have had a reported spend in previous tabs needs a written explanation.  
 The traffic light system will help you ensure the template is completed in full. For the return to be compliant, all traffic lights must be green with a white tick.  
 You must refer to the full guidance document when completing this tab to ensure you have provided all necessary information.

**18) Planned activities - Categories**

Food (excluding FSM support in the holidays)	FSM support in the holidays	Energy and water	Essentials linked to energy and water	Wider essentials	Housing costs	Advice services
Families in receipt of FSM (£100 per child spread over 3 payments, based on Middlesbrough schools' records) Other Middlesbrough families in receipt of FSM, on UCHB or have CTR by application (£100 per child over 3 payments) Part of the offering for those not in receipt of benefits will allow them to choose between this or wider essentials support Funds will be provided to third party providers	N/A	Energy vouchers can be provided to those who have a pre-payment meter Funds are going to a third party provider to deliver energy support	Money has been assigned to provide residents with energy efficient white goods	Vouchers will be provided to new mothers upon registering the birth to help with increased costs Money has been assigned to furniture essentials for beds etc where presenting in crisis Working with social services to provide essentials to families / children Part of the offering for those not in receipt of benefits allows for people to make a choice between food voucher or support with other essentials	We have assigned money to support people with housing costs where not able to receive a DHP	We have assigned a small amount of money to this and are still investigating how this will work, may re-distribute these funds later in the scheme

**19) Planned activities - Types of Support**

Vouchers	Cash awards	Third party organisations	Tangible items	Other
Energy vouchers will be issued where people have the required meter Food vouchers will be used to support people on most routes and this is done to allow them to free up disposable income to support with energy costs	These will be made where we are not able to provide vouchers digitally, mainly for pensioners, and is designed to support with energy costs	Funds have been assigned to various third parties who have applied for help - food banks, eco shops, energy support and HAF support to extend the scheme	Energy efficient white goods are available to residents in crisis who require support as well as essentials such as beds, coats etc	Advice services have been assigned to this currently As part of the application process for those not in receipt of benefits we are offering different methods of support for their wider essentials, this amount may change depending on what choice the resident makes

**20) Planned activities - Access Routes**

Application-based support	Proactive support	Other
Application for households in receipt of FSM where children are not of school age or attend an out of area school There will be an application form for people not in receipt of benefits Applications for tangible items Funds have been assigned to support future initiatives depending on need and this is currently assumed will be via application	Those in receipt of FSM in Middlesbrough schools, or have entitlement to Council Tax Reduction and disability benefits and/or pension credit guarantee credit, will receive automatic awards	Third party support has currently been loaded in to this section

**21) Planned activities - Further information**

Please refer to guidance document for questions to respond to using this field

Funds have been split in to phases to ensure we have money available throughout the whole scheme. For example those in receipt of FSM will receive 3 payments throughout the year.  
 We have a dedicated page on the website and utilise digital channels such as facebook. We are offering a phone based solution that the team can utilise with anyone that contacts the service. Depending on the residents we are trying to reach we will change the method of communication e.g. text messages, letters etc. We also work closely with other departments to ensure that people such as social workers, welfare rights team etc are aware and can verbally promote the scheme and assist with applications where necessary  
 Third party organisations are monitored on a monthly / quarterly basis providing updates on what they have spent, how, who has received the support etc so we can record all relevant data for returns.

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Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

<b>Subject of assessment:</b>	Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme 2023/24			
<b>Coverage:</b>	Crosscutting			
<b>This is a decision relating to:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
<b>It is a:</b>	<b>New approach:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Revision of an existing approach:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>It is driven by:</b>	<b>Legislation:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Local or corporate requirements:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Key aims, objectives and activities</b></p> <p>To assess the impact of proceeding with the adoption of the proposed Household Support Fund 2023/24 scheme.</p> <p><b>Statutory drivers</b></p> <p>The Council needs to adopt a scheme to distribute £3.3 million of Household Support Fund provided by Central Government to residents of the town affected by the Cost of Living Crisis, to be communicated to the DWP by 17 May 2023.</p> <p><b>Differences from any previous approach</b></p> <p>The proposed scheme will be administered in line with the new Central Government criteria guidance, but a number of the suggested initiatives are based on previous HSF schemes that have worked successfully and which have been endorsed by groups such as financial inclusive groups and other partnering organisations. Unlike previous HSF rounds, the new scheme makes financial provision for a full year, which enables more sustained but tapered support over the year, in order to reduce the risk of household dependency.</p> <p><b>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate)</b></p> <p>The key stakeholders are: the Council and local residents.</p> <p><b>Intended outcomes.</b></p> <p>To seek approval for the delivery plan required by the DWP in line with Central Government criteria. Where the criteria do not exist, or minor adjustments are required to ensure efficient operation then decision making is delegated to the Head of Resident and Business Support.</p>			
<b>Live date:</b>	The Executive Member for Finance and Governance will consider the HSF scheme by 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2023.			
<b>Lifespan:</b>	To be administered between April 23 and March 24.			
<b>Date of next review:</b>	March 2024			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p><b>Human Rights</b> Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The HSF scheme is provided by central government to award support for residents adversely affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. The local scheme is based on government guidance and criteria, and is designed to support households with children, pensioners, those with disabilities and other households who may be experiencing financial difficulties. This support does not reduce or replace other existing forms of support and therefore no resident will be adversely affected. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In addition, contingency is in place to provide for situations where an award of relief might be justifiable outside of the eligibility criteria. In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of human rights.</p>
<p><b>Equality</b> Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The HSF scheme is provided by central government to award support for residents adversely affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. The local scheme is based on government guidance and criteria, and is designed to support households with children, pensioners, those with disabilities and other households who may be experiencing financial difficulties. This support does not reduce or replace other existing forms of support and therefore no individuals will be adversely affected. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In addition, contingency is in place to provide for situations where an award of relief might be justifiable outside of the eligibility criteria. In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on different groups or individuals in terms of equality.</p>

\* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
<p><b>Community cohesion</b></p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The HSF scheme funding is provided by central government to award support for residents adversely affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. The local scheme is based on government guidance and criteria, and is designed to support households with children, pensioners, those with disabilities and other households who may be experiencing financial difficulties. This support does not reduce or replace other existing forms of support and therefore no community groups will be adversely affected as a result. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In addition, contingency is in place to provide for situations where an award of relief might be justifiable outside of the eligibility criteria. In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town.</p>
<p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed.</li> <li>➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.</li> </ul>				

<b>Assessment completed by:</b>	Nicola Mearns	<b>Head of Service:</b>	Janette Savage
<b>Date:</b>	13.04.23	<b>Date:</b>	13.04.23

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