

OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS FORM

State the Delegated Authority that you are relying on in order to make this decision: e.g. specific (identified in constitution) or general

Following approval at the Individual Executive Meeting on the 2 December 2020, delegated authority to approve modifications to the Winter Grant Payment and Financial Assistance and Advice Support Payment was given to the Section 151 Officer.

Following which, on 1 August 2022, delegation was extended to provide for the Head of Resident and Business Support to make any modifications or changes previously delegated to the S151 Officer.

Subject of decision: *Household Support Fund Grant*

Allocations of grant funding continue to be made consecutive to the initial Covid Winter Grant launched in 2020. The DWP continue to provide assistance to vulnerable households and children and do so under what is now called the Household Support Fund.

Section 151 officer approval is required for the new arrangements appropriate to the disbursement of further awards to Middlesbrough residents under this scheme.

Text of decision: e.g. can include monies received by the Council, list any terms agreed, brief summary of the policy – Do not include any confidential information.

The Household Support Scheme has been extended a number of times, with the DWP last providing funding for eligible expenditure in the period from April 2022 to September 2022.

Funding is to support vulnerable households, covering 3 main groups, Children, Pensioners and Other – with a requirement to allocate a minimum of 1 third to the first 2. The scheme provided that spend would be monitored periodically and if necessary reviewed to ensure it continues to meet local economic needs.

As the scheme is nearing its end, the remaining funding is now to be allocated by 30 September 2022 as outlined below.

- **Children** - £70k will be used to provide additional Section 17 support by meeting costs incurred in the period April 2022 to September 2022 on essentials, fuel, food, clothing and other items, all of which are designed to support the welfare of the child.
- **Community Support Fund** – An allocation of £30k will be provided to further support households. The number of residents requesting financial support for essential items continues to rise, and the funds will be used against the cost of providing food, white goods (including energy efficient replacement white goods where needed), fuel, utilities or other essential items for vulnerable households. This allocation also includes funding for the removal and disposal of items replaced.
- **Council Tax Accounts** – The balance of remaining funds will be allocated

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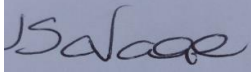
<p>to Council Tax accounts where a summons has been issued for the current financial year and where a balance remains. The amount to be allocated will be distributed evenly, subject to individual account balances for the 2022 charge.</p>
Reason for Decision
<p>The DWP have provided funding, the amendment to the scheme will enable all the funds to be allocated in line with the intention of DWP. Further funding is also likely to follow in October 2022 and as such a further Officer Delegation will follow once further information around the scheme is known.</p>
Other options considered (if any)
NA
Has an Impact Assessment been completed Yes/No – if yes please attach to the decision.
No
Declarations of Interest by any member or relevant local government body
N/A
Who have you consulted as part of the decision making process e.g. Head of Service, Executive Member, Community Association, Surveyor?
N/A
Date of decision
23 September 2022
Service area
Finance Directorate.
Name of Delegated Officer making decision - i.e. Officer who is designated the power in the Constitution
Janette Savage, Head of Resident and Business Support
Name of the Officer making the decision – if power has been sub-delegated to another Officer.
NA.

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List of background papers (do not list if contain exempt/confidential information)

Signed:

Janette Savage

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janette Savage". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Dated: 23 September 2022.