

Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme 2023/24			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<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)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities</p> <p>To assess the impact of proceeding with the adoption of the proposed Household Support Fund 2023/24 scheme.</p> <p>Statutory drivers</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>Differences from any previous approach</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>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate)</p> <p>The key stakeholders are: the Council and local residents.</p> <p>Intended outcomes.</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>			
Live date:	The Executive Member for Finance and Governance will consider the HSF scheme by 24 th April 2023.			
Lifespan:	To be administered between April 23 and March 24.			
Date of next review:	March 2024			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p>Human Rights 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>Equality 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>Community cohesion</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>Next steps:</p> <p>➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed.</p> <p>➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.</p>				

Assessment completed by:	Nicola Mearns	Head of Service:	Janette Savage
Date:	13.04.23	Date:	13.04.23