

Subject of assessment:	Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026/27			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Description:</p>	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities</p> <p>To assess the impact of proceeding with the adoption of the proposed Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).</p> <p>Statutory drivers</p> <p>The Council is required to adopt a new scheme as part of the Crisis and Resilience Fund provided by Central Government as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27. The fund is being provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide crisis support targeted to residents who have a low income and have encountered a financial shock • Support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises <p>A delivery plan must be returned to the DWP by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach</p> <p>The Government is now providing CRF to Local Authorities (LA's) to support residents. Prior to this the Council received Household Support Fund (HSF) grant which has been providing short term funding to LA's since October 2021 and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) funding, both of which have ended. CRF differs from HSF in many ways and aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support low-income households who encounter a financial shock • support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience, allowing residents to better deal with crises in the future, reducing crisis need • takes a cash-first approach • have a person centred, needs based approach taking a holistic view of the household's circumstances • support a no wrong door approach • application based support rather than pro-active payments <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate)</p> <p>Key stakeholders: 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. That delegated authority is provided to the Corporate Director of Finance to adjust the allocation of funding between different elements within the plan, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance.</p>
<p>Live date:</p>	<p>22 June 2026</p>

Lifespan:	Funding has been provided for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. The initial plan is for year one - 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.
Date of next review:	March 2027

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 CRF is a Central Government scheme designed to provide crisis support to vulnerable households with a low income and experiencing a financial shock. With the introduction of CRF, HSF and DHP funding has ceased, with opportunity to make crisis awards and housing payments within the CRF scheme. The proposed CRF plan provides additional support to existing Council provision as well as new opportunities to support where gaps have been identified.</p> <p>Based on this no resident will be adversely affected with the introduction of the scheme. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims.</p> <p>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 CRF is a Central Government scheme designed to provide crisis support to vulnerable households with a low income and experiencing a financial shock. With the introduction of CRF, HSF and DHP funding has ceased, with opportunity to make crisis awards and housing payments within the CRF scheme. The proposed CRF plan provides additional support to existing Council provision as well as new opportunities to support where gaps have been identified.</p> <p>Based on this no resident will be adversely affected with the introduction of the scheme. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of equality.</p>

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

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
<p>Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The CRF is a Central Government scheme designed to provide crisis support to vulnerable households with a low income and experiencing a financial shock. With the introduction of CRF, HSF and DHP funding has ceased, with opportunity to make crisis awards and housing payments within the CRF scheme. The proposed CRF plan provides additional support to existing Council provision as well as new opportunities to support where gaps have been identified. Based on this no resident will be adversely affected with the introduction of the scheme. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of community cohesion.</p>
<p>Armed Forces Could the decision impact negatively on those who are currently members of the armed forces of former members in the areas of Council delivered healthcare, compulsory education and housing policies?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The CRF is a Central Government scheme designed to provide crisis support to vulnerable households with a low income and experiencing a financial shock. With the introduction of CRF, HSF and DHP funding has ceased, with opportunity to make crisis awards and housing payments within the CRF scheme. The proposed CRF plan provides additional support to existing Council provision as well as new opportunities to support where gaps have been identified. Based on this no resident will be adversely affected with the introduction of the scheme. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of armed forces.</p>
<p>Care leavers Could the decision impact negatively on those who are care experienced?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The CRF is a Central Government scheme designed to provide crisis support to vulnerable households with a low income and experiencing a financial shock. With the introduction of CRF, HSF and DHP funding has ceased, with opportunity to make crisis awards and housing payments within the CRF scheme. The proposed CRF plan provides additional support to existing Council provision as well as new opportunities to support where gaps have been identified. Based on this no resident will be adversely affected with the introduction of the scheme. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of care leavers.</p>

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
<p>Reducing Poverty Could the decision impact negatively on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty in the town?</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>Evidence The CRF is a Central Government scheme designed to provide crisis support to vulnerable households with a low income and experiencing a financial shock. With the introduction of CRF, HSF and DHP funding has ceased, with opportunity to make crisis awards and housing payments within the CRF scheme. The proposed CRF plan provides additional support to existing Council provision as well as new opportunities to support where gaps have been identified. Based on this no resident will be adversely affected with the introduction of the scheme. Support will be provided through a combination of direct automated awards and application-based claims. In light of the above, it is considered that the plan supports the Council's ambition to reduce poverty in the town.</p>
<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed. 				

Assessment completed by:	Kellie Appleyard	Head of Service:	Janette Savage
Date:	12.05.2026	Date:	12.05.2026

