

## Record of Officer Decision

### Household Support Fund (HSF) and other Council funds and services 2023/24

#### Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Director of Adult and Community Services, in consultation with the Cabinet for Equality & Diversity and Corporate and Community Services, on 28 February 2023.

#### Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

Guidance was issued on 20 February and a 12-month funding package of £2,470,714 provided for Torbay.

The guidance states that the fund can be used to provide support with food, essentials linked to energy and water, wider essentials. In terms of type of support, it suggests that authorities should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy. Authorities should particularly consider how they can support those vulnerable households who are ineligible for other government support. Support can also be provided to fund additional debt and benefits advice.

Reasonable administrative expenses can be charged to the grant.

#### Decision Taken:

That the Household Support Fund (HSF) for 2023/24 be allocated as follows

1. Food vouchers issued through Family Hub £60,000
2. Households with a low disposable income, who are not in receipt of welfare benefits (includes pension age, unpaid carers, and disabled people) £1,100,000.
3. Households, who are in receipt of welfare benefits (includes pension age, unpaid carers and disabled people) £450,000.
4. Essential linked to energy and water e.g., warm clothing, ovens, for those in receipt of a disability benefit or children under 5 £50,000.
5. Care experienced young people £46,200.
6. Provision of additional debt and benefit advice £127,514.
7. Food banks £150,000.
8. Social supermarkets £250,000.
9. Baby banks and Homestore £40,000.
10. Ringfence £197,000 for administrative expenses.

That additional local support allocation of £400,000 (£150,000 from COVID reserves and £250,000 from Exceptional Hardship) be allocated as follows.

1. £200,000 to be allocated to the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Budget.
2. £200,000 to be allocated to Welfare Support, to be held for Autumn/Winter 2023/2024.

#### Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

To meet the grant restrictions and prioritise addressing hunger, poverty and housing cost pressures in Torbay.

**Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:**

None.

**Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation:**

None.

**Implementation:**

This decision will be implemented immediately.

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email [governance.support@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:governance.support@torbay.gov.uk)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Director of Adult and Community Services)