

Record of Officer Decision

Household Support Fund (HSF) 5

Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet and Directors meeting on 10 April 2024 and Council Leadership Group Meeting on 16 April 2024.

Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

Guidance was issued on 26 March 2024 and a 6-month funding package from 1 April 2024 of £1,235,356.81 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, and housing costs not covered by other schemes. 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 (HSF5) for 6 months from 1 April 2024 be allocated as follows:

1. Food vouchers issued through Family Hub £50,000.
2. Care experienced young people £43,400.
3. Financial support for households with acute financial challenges (All household types, applications via partners) £110,000
4. Households with a low disposable income, who are not in receipt of welfare benefits (households with children and disabled people) £22,000.
5. Households, who are in receipt of welfare benefits (households with children and disabled people) £479,000.
6. Essential linked to energy and water e.g., warm clothing, ovens, for those in receipt of a disability benefit or children under 5 £30,000.
7. Provision of additional debt and benefit advice £63,757.
8. Food banks £94,000.
9. Social supermarkets £77,000.
10. Housing costs to households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness that fall out of scope of other schemes £170,000.
11. Ringfence £86,000 for administrative expenses.

Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

To meet the grant restrictions and prioritise addressing hunger, poverty and housing for those in need within 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

Signed: _____ Date: 22/04/2024
Chief Executive