

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

9 September 2022

**Decision No:** (CAB 22/23 35441)

DECISION-MAKER:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PARAGRAH 1.2 OF THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION)
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Cabinet Member for Communities & Customer Engagement
SUBJECT:	Household Support Fund (October 22- March 23)
AUTHOR:	D'Arcy Mary

### THE DECISION

Having complied with paragraph 15 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

- (i) The council accepts and authorises expenditure in relation to the next phase of Household Support Fund funding for 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 inclusive. The actual amount Southampton City Council will receive is currently unconfirmed (as of 31/08/2022) In the region of circa £2 Million is anticipated but not guaranteed. At the time of writing, this is a best estimate only and to be confirmed.
- (ii) To Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Communities Culture and Homes to finalise the details of the payment scheme following consultation with the Executive Director -Finance, Commercialisation and S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Customer Engagement and to administer funding in accordance with that scheme.

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. This report is submitted for consideration as a General Exception under paragraph 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the City Council's Constitution, notice having been given to the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Panel and the Public.
2. This is being presented under the General Exception due to the limited timescales of Central Government releasing the draft guidance for Local Authorities for Household Support Fund October 2022 – March 2023 and the requirement to implement delivery of a Southampton Household Support Fund scheme in early October.
3. This funding is being provided to County Councils and Unitary Authorities and forms part of the Government's wider package of support for those most in need, to help with the cost of living. This funding can be used to

- support some of our most vulnerable households.
4. Local Authorities have not yet received the final guidance and confirmation of actual amount of funding allocated. This is expected to be communicated by Central Government in the coming weeks.
  5. We will need to mobilise quickly once the funding has been confirmed, therefore delaying the recommendations as outlined in this report, will delay the start of the scheme, and potentially impact on those who may need payments in October 2022.

#### **DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

The council may consider not accepting this funding. This is not recommended as the fund is designed to assist local authorities to help residents experiencing financial hardship linked to the global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living and to be complementary to the Government's wider package of Cost of Living support.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

The Cabinet meeting on the 13th September has been cancelled/postponed due the nation entering a period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September 2022.

There will be an expectation at this difficult time of rising prices that SCC is able to launch its fund as soon as the allocation is confirmed, any delay to this decision could lead to further unnecessary delay to that process.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 9 September 2022

Decision Maker:  
Chief Executive

Proper Officer:  
Judy Cordell

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on 20 September 2022

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*