



**Doncaster  
Council**

## **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - RECORD OF DECISION OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

The following decision was taken on 14th October 2022 by the Mayor

Date notified to all Members: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**This decision may be implemented immediately.**

Decision Maker: Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster

Overview and Scrutiny Consultee: Councillor Jane Kidd, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### **1. DECISION TITLE**

**Household Support Fund October 22 to March 23**

### **2. DECISION**

Approve the receipt of grant funding from the government to award a single payment for food and energy to all Doncaster households on housing benefit, council tax reduction, universal credit (housing element), free school meals and/or pension credit based on household composition which equates to the following one-off payments:

- £70 payment to single households;
- £90 payment to couples;
- £130 payment to households with 1 dependent child;
- £190 payment to households with 2 dependent children;
- £250 payment to households with 3 dependent children; and a
- £310 payment to households with more than 3 dependent children.

In addition, award £5k each to Doncaster's 21 Food Banks and £15k to the Hygiene Bank.

**3. REASON FOR URGENCY**

This decision will enable immediate financial assistance and support to vulnerable residents and those in need. Rising food and energy costs, with subsequent increased requests for assistance, have highlighted the need to provide this support quickly to avoid undue hardship to residents. Taking this decision urgently will also provide certainty and assurance to those hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

The nature and urgency of the decision means it would not be practical to provide the 28 days' notice normally required for a key decision or to wait for a call in period before implementation. This decision is therefore being taken in accordance with Access to information Rule 16 Special Urgency detailed within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

**4. REASONS FOR DECISION**

This decision will mean all low income households on housing benefit, council tax reduction, universal credit (housing element), free school meals and/or pension credit in Doncaster will receive financial assistance from this fund to be used for food or fuel. It also means it will be easier for households to understand what they will get and when. Families with children will not have to apply for vouchers from schools when each school holiday occurs, they will be receiving the equivalent in this payment and will receive it quicker. This option also brings into play the number of people in the household which has an impact on the extra costs being incurred within the household and is fairer than smaller households getting the same as larger who incur more costs.

**5. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED & REJECTED**

The two alternatives considered were to award the funding the same as one of the previous two rounds of Household Support Fund. These have been rejected because this option reached the most households, approximately 28,000 and will be the quickest to pay out due to it reducing the administrative tasks required.

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION**

None

**7. IF EXEMPT, REASONS FOR EXEMPTION**

N/A

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources



Signed .....  
Decision Maker

Jane Kidd

Signed  
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Chair

**NB The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Chair must agree that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.**