



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Decision Making Meeting – 22 July 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM I
Subject	Household Support Fund – April to September 2022
Wards affected	People living in all wards have the potential to be impacted in a positive way, based on need.
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk">jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Andy Barge, Group Manager – Communities Email: <a href="mailto:andy.barge@publicagroup.uk">andy.barge@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	This report provides an overview of the third round of Household Support Fund grant, made available by Government to Gloucestershire County Council and the proposed use of the allocation offered to Cotswold District Council based on an agreed delivery plan.
Annexes	Annex A – Household Support Fund guidance summary Annex B – Cotswold District Council Delivery Plan
Recommendation(s)	<i>It is recommended that:</i>  <i>a) Cotswold District Council submit a delivery plan to Gloucestershire County Council for grant funding of £133,850 from the Household Support Fund, to be used as set out in the delivery plan attached at Annex B</i>
Corporate priorities	Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	Citizens Advice – Stroud and Cotswold



## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In October 2021 the government launched the Household Support Fund (HSF) to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support over the winter and as the economy recovers. The first round of funding ran until 31 March 2022 and Gloucestershire County Council was allocated just shy of £3,700,000.
- 1.2 A further round of funding is now available to cover April to September 2022 and approximately £123,000 has been allocated to each of the six districts in Gloucestershire to design support initiatives most appropriate to their area and subject to an agreed delivery plan.
- 1.3 At least one third of the funding must be spent on households with children; at least one third on households with pensioners; and up to one third on other households. The funding should primarily be used to support households with food, energy and water bills, but can also be used to support other essential costs, such as warm clothing, bedding or essential transport related costs. A guidance summary for the HSF is provided at Annex A.

## **2. COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN**

- 2.1 The proposed delivery plan for Cotswold District Council is shown at Annex B and totals £133,850.
- 2.2 In addition to the proposed local scheme, residents will also be able to access support from the Gloucestershire County Council scheme to help meet any needs not met by the limited allocation to the Council:

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme/household-support-fund-find-out-more-and-apply/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme/household-support-fund-find-out-more-and-apply/)

### **2.3 Support for households with children**

- 2.3.1 This support will be delivered by Citizens Advice, based on their expertise and existing relationships with clients and with other support organisations in the area.
- 2.3.2 A support package totalling £51,000 will be on offer and is made up of:
  - 560 Aldi vouchers totalling £28,000
  - A £15,000 fund to support households in significant fuel poverty, with a particular focus on those who are not on pre-payment meters and therefore cannot make use of fuel vouchers e.g. heating oil, propane gas
  - A £8,000 fund to support households in need of help with wider essentials, such as broadband or phone bills, clothing and essential transport-related costs, such as repairing a car



## **2.4 Support for households with pensioners**

- 2.4.1 The Council will support people in receipt of Pension Credit (Savings or Guaranteed) and housing benefit or council tax support. The Council will identify and contact eligible residents and provide an Aldi voucher, which could be used for food, other essentials or white goods. Alcohol, tobacco and lottery will be ineligible spend. One off support of £45 per household will be provided, totalling approximately £55,000.
- 2.4.2 The Council will provide Citizens Advice with a £5,000 fund to support households in significant fuel poverty, with a particular focus on those who are not on pre-payment meters and therefore cannot make use of fuel vouchers e.g. heating oil, propane gas.
- 2.4.3 The Council will provide Citizens Advice with a £2,000 fund to support households in need of help with wider essentials, such as broadband or phone bills, clothing and essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car.

## **2.5 Other households**

- 2.5.1 This support will be delivered by Citizens Advice and comprise 150 Aldi vouchers totalling £7,500; a £5,000 fund to support households in significant fuel poverty; and a £2,000 fund to support households in need of help with wider essentials.

## **2.6 Scheme administration**

- 2.6.1 To recognise the additional burden placed on Citizens Advice and to acknowledge their support in delivering this much needed support to our residents in most need an administration fee of £6,000 will be awarded.

# **3. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

- 3.1 At its 14 July 2021 meeting Council adopted a refresh of the Constitution, with an updated Responsibility for Functions section (Part C). Within the table of Executive functions the Leader, or responsible Cabinet Member, may make a bid for funding with resource implications exceeding £100,000 and not exceeding £150,000. The HSF grant of £133,850 falls within these thresholds.

# **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 If our delivery plan is approved the grant funding and its proposed use is compatible with the Council's aim of helping residents and communities to access the support they need for good health and wellbeing.
- 4.2 There is no match funding requirement and the Council's reasonable administration costs to enable delivery of the proposed scheme will be covered.

# **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**



- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

## **6. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 There is a reputational risk to the Council if the invitation to submit a delivery plan is not accepted and no local scheme is delivered.
- 6.2 Should there be lower than anticipated take-up, the remaining funding allocation needs to be returned to Gloucestershire County Council.

## **7. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 7.1 The scheme has designed to be open and inclusive to all geographical communities and communities of interest. Support will be directed to those most in need in line with the funding criteria.
- 7.2 As identified at 2.2, , residents will also be able to access support from the Gloucestershire County Council scheme to help meet any needs not met by the limited allocation to the Council.

## **8. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None identified specific to this report.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 9.1 The Council could choose not to submit a delivery plan, rejecting the funding allocation.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None

(END)