



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	25 April 2024
Subject:	Household Support Fund Grant Utilisation – 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024

Summary:

This report invites the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider and support a report on the Household Support Fund Grant Utilisation – 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024.

The report is due to be considered by the Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning between 29 April – 3 May 2024. The views of the Board will be reported to the Leader of the Council.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to:-

- 1) consider the attached report and to determine whether the Board supports the recommendation(s) to the Leader of the Council as set out in the report.
- 2) agree any additional comments to be passed on to the Leader of the Council in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Leader of the Council is due to consider a report on the Household Support Fund Grant Utilisation – 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024.

Decision making on this matter will be considered by the Leader of the Council prior to a decision being taken between 29 April – 3 May 2024.

The full report to the Leader of the Council is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Board is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation(s) in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to inform the decision-making process. The Board's views will be reported to the Leader the Council.

3. Consultation

The Board is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Leader of the Council which will be taken between 29 April – 3 May 2024.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Report to the Leader of the Council to consider a decision on the Household Support Fund Grant Utilisation – 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Anne-Marie Scott, Assistant Director - Prevention and Early Intervention, who can be contacted on anne-marie.scott@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning
Date:	29 April - 3 May 2024
Subject:	Household Support Fund Grant Utilisation – 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024
Decision Reference:	I032519
Key decision?	No

Summary:

In the Spring 2024 budget, the Government confirmed that a further £421 million would be made available to county councils and unitary authorities in England via the Household Support Fund (HSF) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2024. The fund is intended to support vulnerable households most in need with the cost of essentials.

Following the publication of the scheme guidance on 2 April 2024, this report sets out details of the scheme and options to utilise the Lincolnshire allocation of £5,464,685.20 for the benefit of residents most in need of support.

This is the fifth round of funding and as with earlier rounds, collaboration with district councils is required to effectively deliver the scheme. Relationships with delivery partners and mechanisms are now well established with learning taken from previous funding rounds.

As with previous rounds, it is recommended that funding is allocated to schools and early years providers to distribute to targeted cohorts and to support eligible care leavers in supported living accommodation. The remainder would be allocated to District Councils using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), to support the delivery of an application- based element and locally determined schemes that meet the specific needs of communities.

Recommendation(s):

That the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning):

- 1) Approves the following delivery plan principles for the distribution of the

Household Support Fund (HSF) 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024, in line with the published guidance.

- (a) approximately 64% of the grant funding will be provided to Schools and Early Years providers, targeting children eligible for benefit related 'Free School Meals' (FSM), 'Early Years Pupil Premium', (EYPP) and families with a 2-year-old eligible for 'Early Years Entitlement' (EYE).
- (b) 1% of the grant funding will be used to provide financial support to eligible care leavers in supported living accommodation.
- (c) approximately 34% of the grant funding to be made available to Lincolnshire district councils to provide support to vulnerable households via local schemes. District councils (or third sector/Voluntary organisations operating on their behalf) will provide an application-based process to ensure the funding is distributed in line with the grant conditions across local areas.
- (d) 1% of the grant funding will be used to support the administration of the scheme.

2) Authorises the Assistant Director – Prevention and Early Intervention, to work in partnership with Schools, Early Years providers and District Councils as trusted delivery partners to give effect to the above decision.

Alternatives Considered:

1.	<p>To distribute the funding via district council schemes only</p> <p>The scheme guidance strongly encourages partnership working between county councils and district councils.</p> <p>Given the short delivery period, capacity to deliver the full funding amount at pace and to a high volume through an application-based scheme is likely to incur significant additional administrative costs and is not considered the most cost-effective method of distribution.</p>
2.	<p>To distribute the funding via the county council only</p> <p>The scheme guidance strongly encourages partnership working between county and district councils.</p> <p>The scheme guidance requires an application-based element and capacity for one organisation to deliver a countywide scheme in isolation is likely to lead to additional administrative costs and may not reflect the differing needs of the various local communities across Lincolnshire.</p>

3.	<p>Do nothing and decline the grant. The grant is paid in arrears and there is no requirement to draw down the funding.</p> <p>To not utilise the funding would be detrimental to households at a time when many continue to experience financial pressures and is not considered an option.</p>
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Reasons for Recommendation:

Previous HSF rounds have been successfully delivered with the proposed methodology tested and learning taken. Discussions with District Officers and LCC colleagues have shown support for the recommended approach.

To ensure as many vulnerable households as possible are identified, engaged and supported, it is important that a range of delivery routes and arrangements are in place.

The proposed delivery plan provides direct financial support to a wide cohort of families with eligible children and care leavers, alongside wider support to communities through allocations made available to district councils.

Working in partnership with districts councils brings the greatest opportunity to maximise the utilisation of the HSF allocation for Lincolnshire, while minimising both the risk to the Council and the delivery risk by breaking the total funding into smaller parts.

1. Background

- 1.1 In the Spring Budget on 6th March 2024 the Government announced that a further £421 million would be made available to county councils and unitary authorities under the Household Support Fund. This represents the fifth round of funding since the scheme was launched in October 2021. Lincolnshire has received an allocation of £5,464,685.20 to be utilised between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need with the cost of essentials.
- 1.2 On 4 April 2024, The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provided guidance to Councils detailing the principles of the scheme and the types of support which may be offered. The overarching objective of the HSF is to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials. Authorities can also use funding to support households with housing costs where existing housing support does not meet this need, and to supplement support with signposting and advice.
- 1.3 The main principles of the HSF are summarised below:

- 1.3.1 The HSF is intended to support a wide range of low-income households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people, larger families, single-person households, and those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events and is not limited to those in receipt of benefits.
- 1.3.2 The scheme may be delivered through a variety of routes including: proactive support, application-based support or by issuing grants to Third Party Organisations to provide support on their behalf. Every Authority must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis throughout the duration of the HSF, either continuously over the majority of the period or at regular intervals throughout the scheme.
- 1.3.3 Authorities have flexibility and can use discretion to identify and support those most in need. Individual awards can be whatever type and amount is deemed appropriate, bearing in mind the overall scheme criteria. There is no requirement to undertake a means test or conduct a benefit check unless this specifically forms part of the Authority's local eligibility criteria. However, in relation to housing costs, Authorities must establish whether other forms of support are available to the household, such as Discretionary Housing Payments.
- 1.3.4 There must be a clear rationale or documented policy/framework outlining the approach, including eligibility and how households access the HSF. The support must be clearly advertised, inclusive and accessible.
- 1.3.5 The Council is required to submit details of the delivery plan to DWP by 10 May 2024, plans must be agreed by the responsible Executive Member, in this case the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) and the Section 151 Officer.

1.4 Proposed Delivery Plan

- 1.4.1 The latest government allocation of HSF must be distributed between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024. Due to the pace required to deliver, it is challenging to develop alternative distribution models with partners. It is therefore proposed that the distribution formula used in Lincolnshire for the previous HSF funding round, which successfully distributed over £10m to Lincolnshire residents, is used as the basis for the latest round, with one amendment.
- 1.4.2 In the previous round of the Household Support Fund (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), the guidance encouraged Authorities to consider how they could support those ineligible for other government support. A portion of the funding was therefore allocated to provide financial support to just under 5,000 residents who received Housing Benefit but were not eligible for support from the national Cost of Living scheme (which provided additional financial support automatically paid to those on a range of benefits and tax credits) administered by the DWP.
- 1.4.3 As payments under the Cost of Living scheme have now ended, it is anticipated that there will be increased demand for support from the HSF. It is proposed that the previous allocation for Housing Benefit only claimants is not carried forward into the current scheme, with the portion used to increase the support to

early years and children and made available to the district councils to distribute through their local schemes.

- 1.4.4 It is proposed that c.64% of the total funding will be utilised by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to proactively target children via schools and early years providers, based on the number of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) 'Early Years Pupil Premium', (EYPP) and families with a 2-year-old eligible for 'Early Years Entitlement' (EYE). It is anticipated that this will be transferred via a single payment to providers to be distributed in the best way to meet local needs, in most cases this will be a voucher or cash. LCC will work with strategic partners to direct c.1% of the funding to care leavers in supported living accommodation. 1% will be utilised to cover administrative costs. Based on the approach taken in previous rounds of the HSF it is estimated that over 32,000 children and young people will receive support via this proposal. The exact number will be based on the number of eligible children when the data is extracted for payment to be made.
- 1.4.5 c.34% will be made available to the seven district councils to distribute under local arrangements, providing broad support across the county. This will include an application-based process, in line with grant conditions, to meet the needs of their local populations. Any associated administration costs will be met from individual district allocations. The anticipated amounts to be made available to each district council will be based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) weighted by population. Where an individual district council does not fully utilise its allocation, it is intended that any remainder may be redistributed.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is at Appendix A.

The distribution of the HSF directly supports a range of individuals experiencing financial crisis and is a key component to preventing further hardship. It is anticipated that the scheme will have a positive impact on a range of protected characteristic groups. No negative impacts were identified.

One element of the scheme provides direct and targeted financial support for eligible children and young people, via schools, early years providers and for care leavers. It is anticipated that this will support in the region of 32,000 children and young people and their families.

The allocation available to district councils is based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, focusing a large proportion of the funding to areas with higher levels of deprivation. District councils will have discretion to target their local schemes to best meet the needs of their residents (in accordance with the scheme guidance), but it is intended that schemes will be wide ranging, easy to access and navigate and available to a range of individuals experiencing hardship. District Councils have duties under the Equalities Act and will therefore undertake equality impact assessments of their schemes as required.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The JSNA highlights 'Financial Inclusion' and its wide-ranging impact as a key topic of concern. While it is an issue throughout Lincolnshire, there are a number of specific areas/wards where deprivation is a particular issue – for example, coastal East Lindsey, and Lincoln. The allocation to district councils is in accordance with the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, leading to a larger allocation for areas where deprivation is a particular issue.

The HSF is intended to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford household essentials. The JSNA notes that data regarding unmet need is limited, but recognises that crisis support as a potential unmet need. Application based schemes operated by the district councils will help support those most in need in their local communities.

An element of the funding targets children and young people with eligible needs, helping to contribute to their health and wellbeing. Through the provision of food vouchers, families are helped to provide a more healthy, balanced diet in support of the healthy weight priority area.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The provision of support to help the most vulnerable individuals overcome economic hardship may prevent families/individuals from seeking alternative ways of meeting their needs, either linked to or through direct criminal activity.

3. Conclusion

The HSF is intended to benefit households most in need of support with energy bills, food, related essentials, wider essentials and (in limited circumstances where existing housing support does not meet need) housing costs.

In each of the previous HSF rounds LCC has worked in partnership with schools, early years providers, district councils and third sector organisations to deploy and maximise the grant funding available for Lincolnshire. This has been an effective model and enabled

specific cohorts to be targeted, alongside local application-based process designed to meet the broad needs of local areas.

For this round, it is proposed that approx. 64% will be utilised by LCC to proactively target children via schools and early years providers, based on number of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) Early Years Pupil Premium', (EYPP) and families with a 2-year-old eligible for 'Early Years Entitlement' (EYE), 1% to support eligible care leavers in supported living accommodation and 1% for associated scheme administration. The remaining approx. 34% will be made available to district councils to support local schemes, including the required application-based element. Demand for support with the cost of essentials is anticipated to be higher than previously since the government's Cost of Living Payment scheme which provided additional financial support for those in receipt of certain benefits or tax credits, ended earlier this year.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council has the power to distribute the Household Support Fund in the way proposed.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and it is a requirement of the funding that the money be spent on specified purposes and that the delivery plan is approved by the appropriate Executive Councillor.

The decision is considered to be a non-key decision and the decision is within the remit of the Leader of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

The recommendation is for the Executive Councillor to approve the distribution of HSF to schools and early years providers through the eligibility of FSM; EYPP and 2-year-old EYE ensuring the funding is deployed to those vulnerable children and families, DC's to provide financial support to vulnerable households via an application-based process, in accordance with the grant conditions.

The recommended approach will satisfy the conditions of the grant and systems and processes are in place to facilitate the payments.

The Council has been allocated a government ring-fenced grant of £5.464m to support vulnerable households. Periodic reporting is required of the Council to the Department for Work and Pensions on spending of this grant. Funding will be paid to the Council in arrears following these returns, to the maximum of the grant value. The grant end date is the 30 September 2024. The recommendation will maximise the funding available to Lincolnshire.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The decision will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 25 April 2024 and the comments of the Board will be reported to the Leader of the Council.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

The guidance identifies the potential risk of fraud as recipients might appear to be eligible when they are not.

Distributing the funding to children and young people via schools and providers who have already established eligible needs and through trusted district council partners through their own schemes minimises this risk. Where possible, vouchers will be considered instead of cash to help to mitigate the risk of the money being spent by the recipient on things outside of the scheme intent.

Working in partnership with district councils, each with individual allocations gives a greater opportunity to maximise the spend against the grant allocation and the flexibility to reallocate unspent funding where necessary.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Equality Impact Analysis

8. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Department for Work and Pensions - Household Support Fund Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils

This report was written by Anne-Marie Scott, Assistant Director - Prevention and Early Intervention, who can be contacted on anne-marie.scott@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Equality Impact Analysis to enable informed decisions

The purpose of this document is to:-

- I. help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- II. for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence on a proposal for a project/service change/policy/commissioning of a service or decommissioning of a service evolves taking into account any consultation feedback, significant changes to the proposals and data to support impacts of proposed changes. The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker and the Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision making report.

****Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010****

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under a personal duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

Section 149 requires a public authority to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by/or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics and by evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

Decision makers duty under the Act

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a personal duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:-

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms,
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct,
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics,
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

Conducting an Impact Analysis

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision making process.

The Lead Officer responsibility

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

Summary of findings

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.

Impact – definition

An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.

How much detail to include?

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this asking simple questions “Who might be affected by this decision?” “Which protected characteristics might be affected?” and “How might they be affected?” will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data, and where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to arrive at a view as to where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such, with an explanation as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

Proposals for more than one option If more than one option is being proposed you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.

Background Information

Title of the policy / project / service being considered	Household Support Fund Grant Utilisation (1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)	Person / people completing analysis	Anne-Marie Scott, Assistant Director – Prevention and Early Intervention
Service Area	Public Health	Lead Officer	Anne-Marie Scott, Assistant Director – Prevention and Early Intervention
Who is the decision maker?	Cllr Martin Hill OBE (Leader) - Resources, Communications and Commissioning Hill	How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?	In line with the Equality Impact Assessment Guidance
Date of meeting when decision will be made	Click here to enter a date. Between 29 April and 3 May 2024	Version control	V1
Is this proposed change to an existing policy/service/project or is it new?	New	LCC directly delivered, commissioned, re-commissioned or de-commissioned?	Directly delivered
Describe the proposed change	<p>The Government has made £5,464,685.20 available to Lincolnshire County Council as part of its Household Support Fund. The objective of The Fund is to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need with the cost of essentials and must be utilised in accordance with Government guidance.</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, regardless of protected characteristics, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials</p>		

Evidencing the impacts

In this section you will explain the difference that proposed changes are likely to make on people with protected characteristics. To help you do this first consider the impacts the proposed changes may have on people without protected characteristics before then considering the impacts the proposed changes may have on people with protected characteristics.

You must evidence here who will benefit and how they will benefit. If there are no benefits that you can identify please state 'No perceived benefit' under the relevant protected characteristic. You can add sub categories under the protected characteristics to make clear the impacts. For example under Age you may have considered the impact on 0-5 year olds or people aged 65 and over, under Race you may have considered Eastern European migrants, under Sex you may have considered specific impacts on men.

Data to support impacts of proposed changes

When considering the equality impact of a decision it is important to know who the people are that will be affected by any change.

Population data and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO) holds a range of population data by the protected characteristics. This can help put a decision into context. Visit the LRO website and its population theme page by following this link: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk> If you cannot find what you are looking for, or need more information, please contact the LRO team. You will also find information about the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on the LRO website.

Workforce profiles

You can obtain information by many of the protected characteristics for the Council's workforce and comparisons with the labour market on the [Council's website](#). As of 1st April 2015, managers can obtain workforce profile data by the protected characteristics for their specific areas using Agresso.

Positive impacts

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics – If no positive impact, please state 'no positive impact'.

Age	<p>Children and Young People - Positive Impact The JSNA states that gaps in outcomes for children eligible for Free School Meals wider than that reported nationally and that locally there is a strong link between childhood obesity, levels of deprivation and access to affordable food.</p> <p>A large proportion of the funding will provide food vouchers and financial support directly to children and young people (c.32,000) there will be a positive impact on this age group.</p> <p>Other age groups – Positive Impact The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.</p>
Disability	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>People with disabilities can be more vulnerable to rising costs of essentials than many other groups e.g. energy, partly because of additional needs caused by their health problems, but also because they may spend more time at home. The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, regardless of protected characteristics, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, regardless of protected characteristics, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.</p>

Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils and subject to their own EIA, will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, regardless of protected characteristics, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials</p>
Race	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils and subject to their own EIA, will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.</p>
Religion or belief	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils and subject to their own EIA will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials</p>
Sex	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils and subject to their own EIA will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>The local and application-based elements of the scheme administered by the district councils and subject to their own EIA will provide opportunities for support for vulnerable individuals with immediate needs, who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials</p>

If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.

Positive impact for individuals and families who are financially vulnerable (Financial Conduct Authority definition) and who experience social and economic deprivation. The allocation made available to district councils is based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, focusing a large proportion of the funding to areas with higher levels of deprivation.]

Adverse/negative impacts

You must evidence how people with protected characteristics will be adversely impacted and any proposed mitigation to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. An adverse impact causes disadvantage or exclusion. If such an impact is identified please state how, as far as possible, it is justified; eliminated; minimised or counter balanced by other measures.

If there are no adverse impacts that you can identify please state 'No perceived adverse impact' under the relevant protected characteristic.

Negative impacts of the proposed change and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences on people with protected characteristics are detailed below. If you have not identified any mitigating action to reduce an adverse impact please state 'No mitigating action identified'.

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Age	No perceived adverse impact
Disability	No perceived adverse impact
Gender reassignment	No perceived adverse impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No perceived adverse impact
Pregnancy and maternity	No perceived adverse impact

Race	No perceived adverse impact
Religion or belief	No perceived adverse impact
Sex	No perceived adverse impact
Sexual orientation	No perceived adverse impact

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If you have identified negative impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.

N/A

Stakeholders

Stake holders are people or groups who may be directly affected (primary stakeholders) and indirectly affected (secondary stakeholders)

You must evidence here who you involved in gathering your evidence about benefits, adverse impacts and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences. You must be confident that any engagement was meaningful. The Community engagement team can help you to do this and you can contact them at engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk

State clearly what (if any) consultation or engagement activity took place by stating who you involved when compiling this EIA under the protected characteristics. Include organisations you invited and organisations who attended, the date(s) they were involved and method of involvement i.e. Equality Impact Analysis workshop/email/telephone conversation/meeting/consultation. State clearly the objectives of the EIA consultation and findings from the EIA consultation under each of the protected characteristics. If you have not covered any of the protected characteristics please state the reasons why they were not consulted/engaged.

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Objective(s) of the EIA consultation/engagement activity

The guidance and conditions of the Government Household Support Fund require that support is focused on helping those who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.

Engagement has taken place with District Councils providing local and application-based schemes. District councils will have discretion to target their local schemes to best meet the needs of their residents (in accordance with the scheme guidance), but it is intended that schemes will be wide ranging, easy to access and navigate and available to a range of individuals experiencing hardship. District Councils have duties under the Equalities Act and will undertake Equality Impact Assessments for their own schemes as required.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will have the opportunity to review and input into the EIA prior to the decision being taken. |

Who was involved in the EIA consultation/engagement activity? Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic

Age	N/A
Disability	N/A
Gender reassignment	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	N/A
Race	N/A
Religion or belief	N/A

Sex	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way? The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.	N/A
Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?	N/A

Further Details

Are you handling personal data?	No If yes, please give details.
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Actions required	Action	Lead officer	Timescale
Include any actions identified in this analysis for on-going monitoring of impacts.			

Version	Description	Created/amended by	Date created/amended	Approved by	Date approved
V1	First issued following scheme development	Anne-Marie Scott	28 March 2024	Michelle Grady	

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