

## Officer Executive Decisions

### Household Support Grant: 2022/23 Q3/4 Allocation and Free School Meals

On 18 October 2022, the Cabinet considered a report which set out a proposal to use the latest round of funding allocated to the Council through the Household Support Fund. The following decisions were made:

***Decision number:***

129/2022

***Decision:***

The Cabinet agreed the proposals set out in section 3 of the report as the Council's approach to delivering the Household Support Fund and agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, to finalise and implement these proposals.

130/2022

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, to make minor amendments to the proposals to enable them to continue to support vulnerable households in Medway, including amending any discretionary eligibility criteria where discussions remained ongoing and where further Government advice was provided.

This report is available on the [Council's website](#).

## Decision

With the funds remaining in the Household Support Fund, tranche 3, the decision has been made to:

- Provide £200,000 to members of Medway's Food Partnership
- Provide Medway Foodbank with £4,000 to fund Warm Spaces
- Provide Medway help for Ukrainians with £10,000 to support the work it is doing providing household essentials to displaced Ukrainians
- Provide all free school eligible children with a £15 voucher for each week of the Easter Holidays (£30 in total).
- Provide £16,000 for Medway's Care Leavers to assist with Household Essentials
- The remaining funds to be used by Housing Services to cover essential and emergency Housing Costs that are not able to be met by other statutory grants.

## Reasons for Decision

Applications for the grant scheme have reduced despite extensive promotion, therefore to ensure full disbursement of the fund, the Council has identified cohorts of people who require additional assistance. The grant scheme remains in operation until 31 March 2023.

## Date of Decision

8 March 2023

## Lead Officer

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## Details of any other options considered and rejected

1. Do nothing and return the funds to the Department for Work and Pensions
2. Further promote the grant scheme with the aspiration that more people will apply however, that offers no guarantees.

## Conflicts of Interest

None