

OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Nicola Butterworth

KEY DECISION YES

DIRECTORATE: Neighbourhood Services

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SUBJECT: COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME (DWP)

1.0 DECISION:

That the Director of Neighbourhood Services agrees the following indicative local allocation of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme.

Item	Proposed spend
a) Food & activities holiday provision for school and nursery age children (grants to multiple community-based food providers)	£385,790
b) Financial Support with Welfare Needs scheme	£80,000
c) Financial support with crisis energy (fuel) costs (grant to Fuelbank Foundation)	£100,000
d) Financial support with energy (fuel) and water bills debt	£200,000
e) Crisis support with emergency call-outs (heating)	£30,000
f) Emergency (temporary) heating (grant to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service £15,400)	£17,325
g) Winter Warmer Packs (grant to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service)	£20,000
h) Crisis support with essential white goods (grants to community-based providers – to be determined)	£30,000
i) COVID Winter Fund - Small Grants Programme (grants to multiple community-based food providers – to be determined)	£250,000
j) Emergency support	£30,000
k) Administration costs (5%)	£61,231
Contingency	£20,270.93
Total	£1,224,616.93

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Department for Work & Pensions is providing to County Councils and Unitary Authorities a COVID Winter Grant Scheme (£170 million) to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials.

Wirral's indicative allocation of the Grant Scheme is **£1,224,616.93**; this covers the period 1 December 2020 – 31 March 2021. The expected go-live date is 1 December 2020. The

Grant will help the Council continue its intensive work, in partnership with local agencies, groups and organisations, to support those most vulnerable throughout the coronavirus pandemic.


3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer, and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed, that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

The recommendations are also made based upon compliance with the Draft Guidance issued for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme by the Department for Work & Pensions. The indicative spend will be reviewed again once final guidance is published by the DWP to ensure continued compliance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.



Signed:

Officer: Nicola Butterworth

Title: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Date: 24 November 2020

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Caroline Laing
Date: 23 November 2020

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Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: