

Cheltenham Borough Council
Delegated decision by the Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles
Winter Grant Scheme

Accountable member	Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles
Accountable officer	Strategy and Engagement Manager
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>In January 2021, Gloucestershire County Council allocated £50,000 to Cheltenham Borough Council for the purposes of supporting people made vulnerable due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>This report summarises the allocation, distribution and monitoring of the grant.</p>
Recommendations	The cabinet member healthy lifestyles has agreed to the allocation, distribution of the Winter Grant Scheme funding and notes the numbers of people supported by the scheme.

Financial implications	<p>There are no financial implications for the Council of this decision. The Winter Grant Scheme funding has been received from Gloucestershire County Council and sits on GBD001.</p> <p>The council will re-pay any grant funds that are not fully allocated by the end of the project.</p> <p>Contact officer: Martin Yates Business Partner Accountant Business Support Services Martin.Yates@publicagroup.uk 01242 264115</p>
Legal implications	There are no legal implications identified with this decision
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	There are no HR implications identified with this decision
Key risks	
Corporate and community plan Implications	The allocation of the funding will help support communities made vulnerable by the Covid-19 pandemic
Environmental and climate change implications	None identified
Property/Asset Implications	<p>There are no property implications associated with this decision</p> <p>Contact officer: Dominic.Stead@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 The Winter Grants Scheme is funding from the DWP for upper tier LA's to: provide support over the winter to children and households who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty, where they are impacted by the ongoing public health emergency and where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.
- 1.2 Gloucestershire County Council was allocated £1,507,674.65 and it agreed that £50,000 would be allocated to each of the six District Councils.
- 1.3 The funding aimed to enable each District Council to provide targeted support to vulnerable children and their families, families without children and vulnerable people in their local communities, within the remit of the funding as detailed below.
- at least 80% of the total funding must be ring-fenced to support households with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other households experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty during the pandemic.
 - at least 80% of the total funding must be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, and sanitary purposes) and sewerage, or other essentials. Within this condition there is flexibility about the proportion of support allocated to food and to bills.
 - up to 20% of the total funding can be used to provide support with other essentials clearly linked to the scheme conditions (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets; boiler service/repair; purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.), in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access food, energy and water.
- 1.4 The availability of the funding was communicated to Cheltenham Borough Council in December with the expectation that the council would devise a scheme with local partners ready to go live by mid to late January 2021 to run for 10 weeks to end of March 2021.
- 1.5 The council had already developed good working relationships with a number of community partners and these relationships were used to develop the Winter Grant Scheme.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The agreed funding allocation plan was as follows:

Partner	Activity	Allocation for 10 weeks
#feedcheltenham – partnership of community food partners	Supermarket food vouchers and food pantry vouchers to be distributed through schools and children centres to vulnerable families and adults plus frozen meal distribution via Sober Parrot	£30k
Cheltenham Children Centres	Food and household items (eg cleaning / toiletries) for vulnerable families with under 5s	£5k
Fuel Bank voucher provision via Cheltenham Food Bank	Energy vouchers to vulnerable families and adults	£5k
Cheltenham Household Essentials Project	Access to household essentials / one-off items to vulnerable families and adults	£10k
Total		£50k

2.2 The actual spend was as follows:

Partner	Activity	Actual spend
#feedcheltenham – partnership of community food partners	Supermarket food vouchers and food pantry vouchers to be distributed through schools and children centres to vulnerable families and adults plus frozen meal distribution via Sober Parrot	30,000
Cheltenham Children Centres	Food and household items (eg cleaning / toiletries) for vulnerable families with under 5s	4,075.77
Fuel Bank voucher provision via Cheltenham Food Bank	Energy vouchers to vulnerable families and adults	5,000
Cheltenham Household Essentials Project	Access to household essentials / one-off items to vulnerable families and adults	4096.45
*Springbank Community Project	CBC Food supplies for clinically extremely vulnerable cohort for February and March	4,605
Total		47,777.22

* Funding to Springbank Community Project added as it met the criteria

2.3 The numbers of people supported by the scheme are as follows:

Partner	Activity	Numbers of people supported
#feedcheltenham – partnership of community food partners	Supermarket food vouchers and food pantry vouchers to be distributed through schools and children centres to vulnerable families and adults plus frozen meal distribution via Sober Parrot	4672
Cheltenham Children Centres	Food and household items (eg cleaning / toiletries) for vulnerable families with under 5s	44
Fuel Bank voucher provision via Cheltenham Food Bank	Energy vouchers to vulnerable families and adults	69
Cheltenham Household Essentials Project	Access to household essentials / one-off items to vulnerable families and adults	40
*Springbank Community Project	CBC Food supplies for clinically extremely vulnerable cohort for February and March	175
Total		5000

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 None, due to the restrictions on how the funding could be spent, the council was limited to working with a range of partners that could reach the target groups.

4. How this initiative contributes to the corporate plan

- 4.1 The allocation of the funding helped support 5,000 people that had been made vulnerable by the

Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Consultation and feedback

- 5.1** The scheme was shaped with input from a range of community partners via the community food network.

6. Performance management –monitoring and review

- 6.1** Each delivery partner committed to supplying monitoring information and this was collated and returned to the County council.

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Appendices	1. Risk Assessment
Background information	None

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	Potential cost over-run	Richard Gibson	12.2.21	3	2	6	Reduce	Only pass money over to third parties up to the maximum that has been pre-allocated	31.3.21	Richard Gibson	

Explanatory notes

Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)

Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6
(1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)

Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close