

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Brendan Arnold – S151 Officer

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00013

For publication

Subject matter:

Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) – Oil Heating Energy Support

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Decision Number 21/00107

*This decision is taken under the authority delegated to the Section 151 Officer by **Key Decision 21/00107**, which permits acceptance of grant funding and management of that funding within the parameters of that decision. This Officer Decision does not approve or determine any new activity.*

Decision:

To accept and administer additional funding of **£998,009.00** allocated via the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) to provide targeted energy support for low-income households reliant on heating oil, and to manage this funding within the existing governance and delivery framework established under **Key Decision 21/00107**.

This funding is additional to the core CRF allocation already accepted *under Officer Decision OD-26-00005*. *It is available* from 1 April 2026 and is fully aligned with the purpose and scope of the CRF, with a specific focus on fuel and energy support.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed an additional allocation of funding via the Crisis Resilience Fund to support low-income households experiencing financial hardship due to significant increases in heating oil costs. Kent County Council has been identified as an eligible authority due to the number of households reliant on oil heating and levels of rural deprivation.

Key Decision 21/00107, originally agreed under the Household Support Fund (HSF), explicitly permits support with fuel and energy costs. As the Crisis Resilience Fund replaces the Household Support Fund and consolidates previous fuel support arrangements, the provision of heating oil support sits squarely within the existing delegated authority.

The funding for the Crisis Resilience Fund covers the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 inclusive and has already been accepted under the conditions of **Key Decision 21/00107** and subsequent **Officer ROD OD/26/00005**, as it aligns with the objectives, scope and delivery arrangements of the fund. The additional heating oil funding does not introduce a new policy or scheme, but represents a targeted extension of existing energy support, responding to acute cost pressures affecting oil-heated households.

This Officer Decision therefore provides the necessary governance clarity, audit assurance and transparency to confirm that the additional oil heating support funding:

- Is consistent with CRF objectives
- Aligns with historic HSF fuel support practice
- Can be delivered immediately using existing mechanisms
- Does not exceed current officer delegations

This additional heating-oil allocation has been provided in advance of the forthcoming Key Decision on the wider deployment of the Crisis Resilience Fund. As the new CRF Key Decision has not yet been taken, this Officer Decision is required to enable Kent County Council to accept and deploy this specific ring-fenced crisis funding within the existing governance and delivery framework established under **Key Decision 21/00107**.

Financial Implications:

This Officer Decision is strictly limited to the provision of targeted support to households providing heating oil funding which has been ring-fenced via the Crisis Resilience Fund and does not place any additional financial burden on the Council.

The funding will be used solely to provide targeted energy and fuel support to low-income households and households in financial distress, specifically those reliant on heating oil, in line with CRF and former HSF guidance. The additional allocation for Kent will be £998,0009

All expenditure will be:

- Managed with this existing CRF/HSF financial governance framework
- Time-limited in accordance with grant conditions
- Subject to standard monitoring, reporting and audit requirements

Legal Implications

Funding must be used in accordance with the guidance set by Government, and the terms and conditions of the grant. KCC will apply appropriate legal mechanisms as part of issuing or deploying any grant monies to ensure any parts or third parties in receipt of grant funding remain compliant.

Equality Implications:

Heating oil households are disproportionately represented in rural and coastal communities and are more vulnerable to sudden fuel price shocks due to the need for bulk fuel purchases.

Targeted heating oil support is expected to have a positive impact on low-income households, older residents, disabled residents, and families with young children.

Delivery of this support will align with existing Equality Impact Assessments undertaken for the Crisis Resilience Fund, with ongoing review as implementation progresses.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The Leader has been consulted and supports the use of delegated authority to accept and manage this additional funding within the parameters of **Key Decision 21/00107** –

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Declining the additional funding – rejected due to the immediate and significant impact on vulnerable households reliant on heating oil and the risk of avoidable fuel poverty.

Delaying acceptance pending further decisions – rejected due to urgency and the need to

provide timely energy support.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None.



9th April 2026

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signed

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date