

By: Anna Taylor, Scrutiny Research Officer
To: Scrutiny Committee, 26 February 2025
Subject: Delivery of the Household Support Fund (21/00107)

Summary: Following a request from Mr Hook, the Chairman and Spokespeople of the Scrutiny Committee have agreed that the issue of the Household Support Fund be placed on the Committee agenda for discussion.

1. Introduction

- a) In September 2021 the Government announced that vulnerable households across the country would be able to access a new £500million support fund to help them with essentials over the winter. The Household Support Fund was distributed by Upper Tier councils in England to directly help those who needed it most. In October 2021 the Leader took an urgent decision to accept the grant and the decision also authorised the Corporate Director Finance, in consultation with the Leader, to accept and administer any further grant monies providing they were given by government on very similar terms of reference and that they could be appropriately managed under the funding/governance framework put in place by the decision.
- b) The Household Support Fund is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the UK government and the scheme supports vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs.
- c) The following webpage sets out who is eligible, what is offered, how to apply and appeal, how you would receive and redeem your voucher along with other places to get help: [Household Support Fund - Kent County Council](#)
- d) Cabinet has received updates on the Financial Hardship Programme in March 2023, July 2024 and November 2024 – the links to these meetings are contained in the background documents below.
- e) This item is placed on the agenda for discussion following concerns about how the fund is being targeted and which groups of Kent residents are eligible.

2. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to discuss and comment on the delivery of the Household Support Fund.

3. Attached documents

- a) [21/00107 Record of Decision](#)
- b) [21/00107 Decision Report](#)
- c) [Record of Officer Decision - Household Support Grant allocation to Water Companies](#)
- d) [Record of Officer Decision - Household Support Fund Extension](#)

4. Background documents

- a) [Household Support Fund - Kent County Council](#)
- b) [Update on Supporting Kent Residents with Financial Hardship - Cabinet, 30 March 2023 – Update on Supporting Kent Residents with Financial Hardship](#)
- c) [Financial Hardship Programme - Cabinet, 11 July 2024](#)
- d) [Financial Hardship Programme - Cabinet, 28 November 2024](#)

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