

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION – 18 October 2022

Decision by	Councillor Bassam Mahfouz
Subject	Household Support Fund
Portfolio	Decent Living Incomes
Authority	Constitution part 3 Section 3.

Decision:	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Decent Living Incomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Approved the proposed distribution of Household Support Fund to residents who qualified for grant payments under conditions laid down by central government and local scheme guidance.ii. Authorised the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Decent Living Incomes and the Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to determine and amend the award criteria as may have been appropriate in response to circumstances and further guidance from central government.iii. Approved temporary expansion of eligibility criteria for Local Welfare Assistance in line with eligibility criteria of Household Support Fund to be applicable until 31 March 2023.
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Reason for decision And Options Considered:	<p>The cost of living had been increasing since late 2021 and had been caused by high inflation fueled by sharp increases of energy costs. From 1 October 2022, the annual energy bill for typical household would rise to £2,500 – a 27% increase on the current costs. This also meant that the cost of energy for households would have doubled over the previous 12 months.</p>
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Please see report attached

As part of the measures to address the raised prices of food and fuel, the DWP was providing further extension of Household Support Fund from 1 October 2022 until 31 March 2023.

The objective of the Household Support Fund was to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.

Funding had been made available to Local Authorities under the scheme to continue providing support for households between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023.

Ealing funding allocation under the scheme was £2,658,804.97.

There was no separate allocation for administration of the scheme and the Council was allowed to use part of this funding towards administration costs as long as these were 'reasonable'.

Date of Implementation
(if not called in):

18 October 2022

Report published	18 October 2022
Opposition consulted	18 October 2022
Decision recorded	18 October 2022
Decision published	18 October 2022
Call-in deadline	Not Applicable

Reason for urgency

The reason for urgency was the grant was urgently to be paid out in order to relieve hardship, and in accordance with a fully agreed policy. The reason for lateness was that the grant and its conditions had only very recently been confirmed to The Council by the Government.

Please see report
attached

The urgency procedures followed were:

1. Rule 4 (c) of the [Access to Information Procedure Rules](#) (meeting called at less than five clear working days' notice). This was for the Proper Officer to determine (following consultation with the cabinet member), the Proper Officer was satisfied that the circumstances were sufficiently urgent. Cllr Mahfouz (and Cllr Donnelly, who shared the portfolio responsibility) had already agreed with The Proper Officer that the decision was sufficiently urgent.
2. Rule 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (impractical to comply with Forward Plan requirements). For this, the Proper Officer obtained the agreement of the chair of OSC and the Leader of the Opposition that the making of the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred. The Proper Officer also published a notice on the website setting out the reasons for the urgency, and this was to be carried out by Democratic Services Committees team..
3. Rule 5 of appendix to the Access to Information Procedure Rules (urgent ICMD): required consultation with other cabinet members, and agreement of the Leader of the Opposition that the proposed decision was urgent which were obtained.
4. Rule 16 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (exemption from call-in): chair of OSC and the Leader of the Opposition agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. The decision will be reported to the next available meeting of full council, together with the reasons for urgency.

Cabinet member's signature..... *Bassam Mahfouz*Date...18 October 2022
Councillor Bassam Mahfouz
Cabinet Member - Portfolio –Decent Living Incomes

Officer recording decision *K. Broomfield*Date...18 October 2022
Designation Keith Broomfield
Democratic Services

