

## SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Deputy Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Andrew Walmsley  
Date agreed: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes  
Date agreed: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Decision Taker:

Name: Chris Warren  
Date agreed: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

1. Accept the £238,733 Household Support Fund 7 (HSF7) grant from Lancashire County Council (LCC)
2. Approve funding to partner organisations to enable them to support the most financially vulnerable Rossendale Residents.
3. That any minor amendments to the criteria and budget be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

The grant allocation is for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. It is imperative that the Council proceeds with the grant process as soon as possible to ensure full utilisation of the grant within the time period and avoid delaying the distribution of grants to vulnerable residents.

The funding will be allocated via: -

- An in-house application process that will be delivered by RBC
- Citizens Advice who will be commissioned to deliver benefit and debt advice
- Support for Food Banks, Refugee & Asylum Seekers, funding for household items for vulnerable families supported by the Housing Options Team and support for energy costs and an emergency discretionary fund.
- Distribution of grant funding continues to be in line with the scheme eligibility.

Spend of the fund will be reviewed in January 2026 and should there be an underspend, a targeted approach to pensioner household will be considered.

To delay making payments until the next meeting of Council would be a detriment to those most in need.

Decision to be taken by:

Director of Resources

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

HSF7

Implications:

The HSF7 scheme commenced in on 1st April 2025 and is due to run until March 2026. The scheme is fully funded by Government. To seek approval at the next Council meeting would delay the distribution of grants to vulnerable residents.

Status:

For publication

Date:

11/04/2025

## NOTES

### A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
  - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
    - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
    - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
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1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
  2. Implications — List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
  3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Democratic Services Manager.