

Subject:	Household Support Fund 7 - 2 nd allocation	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	2 nd July 2025
Report of:	Director of Resources	Lead Member:	Resources
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To accept the sums of £183k as a second allocation to deliver the 2025/26 Household Support Fund programme and Affordable warmth programmes respectively and £27.5k to deliver the Affordable Warmth Programme.
- 1.2 Approve funding to partner organisations to enable them to support the most financially vulnerable Rossendale Residents.
- 1.3 That any minor amendments to the criteria and budget be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 A seventh round of Household Support funding totalling £238k has already been made available to Rossendale via Lancashire County Council (LCC) to support vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs. This was accepted via Special Urgency Decision in April 2025. County have now decided that they will release the remainder of the allocation for Rossendale being £183k plus an additional £27.5k for Affordable warmth.
- 2.2 The fund covers the period 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- 2.3 This report proposes funding to partner organisations to enable them to support the most financially vulnerable, and an open to all application process managed internally.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A total of £17m has been allocated to LCC as part of the seventh round of Household Support Funding for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.
- 3.2 The expectation varies little from previous rounds in that the Fund should be used to support households in the most need; particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available, but who are nevertheless in need and who require crisis support. In particular the fund guidance mentions families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.
- 3.3 The Government has stipulated that authorities can deliver the scheme through a variety of routes including providing vouchers or cash to households, making direct provision of food and goods, or issuing grants to third parties. However we must operate at least part of our scheme on an application basis that is open to any resident to come forward and ask for support.

3.4 RBC has successfully delivered six previous rounds of Household Support Funding in partnership with third part organisations.

4. DETAILS

4.1 The funding will be allocated as follows:-

- An in-house application process will be delivered by RBC
- Citizens Advice who will be commissioned to deliver benefit and debt advice
- Support via Food Banks
- An emergency discretionary fund
- In addition, there will be targeted campaigns to households in areas identified through the Low Income Family Tracker
- Affordable Warmth grants via Homewise
- Distribution of grant funding continues to be in line with the scheme eligibility

5. RISK

5.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report. RBC has successfully delivered six previous rounds of the Household Support Fund.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The HSF7 scheme commenced in on 1st April 2025 and is due to run until March 2026. The scheme is fully funded by Government. There are no other financial implications.

7. LEGAL

7.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from this report.

7.2 All necessary legal agreements will be entered into in relation to the scheme.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 Council should agree the recommendations to allow the early commencement of the fund.

No background papers