

<p align="center">Agenda Item 11 Council – 21st March 2023 Recommendation from Cabinet 14th March 2023</p>
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Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 14th March 2023

Present:

Cabinet Members:	Councillor G Duggins (Chair) Councillor AS Khan (Deputy Chair) Councillor R Brown Councillor K Caan Councillor M Mutton Councillor J O'Boyle Councillor K Sandhu Councillor P Seaman Councillor P Hetherton Councillor D Welsh
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Non-Voting Deputy Cabinet Members:	Councillor P Akhtar Councillor G Lloyd Councillor S Nazir
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Non-Voting Opposition Members:	Councillor G Ridley Councillor P Male
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Other Non-Voting Members:	Councillor R Lakha
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Employees (by Service):

Interim Chief Executives	B Hastie, Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) K Nelson, Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer)
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Business, Investment and Culture	C Booth, D Nuttall
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Education and Skills	A Coles, R Sugars
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Finance	E Dewar, B Strain
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Law and Governance	J Newman (Chief Legal Officer), S Bennett
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Property Services and Development	A Hunt
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Streetscene and Regulatory Services	A Walster (Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services), R Back, C Eggington, M Fothergill
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Transformation and
Change

M McGinty, D Horton Rayner

Transportation and
Highways

C Knight (Director of Transportation and Highways),
N Cowper

Apologies:

Councillors N Akhtar, L Bigham, B Gittins, R Singh

RECOMMENDATION

Public Business

104. Household Support Fund Grant Acceptance

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) which indicated that, since October 2021, the Council has been supporting Coventry households with the costs of food, fuel and related essentials through the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant from the Department for Work and Pensions, to provide support to those most in need with their food, energy and water bills over winter 2021/22 during the next stage of economic recovery following the Covid pandemic. Since then, there have been two further extensions of the HSF to provide help with inflationary challenges and the cost-of-living crisis which emerged during 2022.

A new phase of HSF is due to commence from 1st April 2023 lasting until 31st March 2024. The report sought acceptance of the £6.4M grant funding and set out the planned approach to deliver this support based on the following principles:-

- Application-based or direct support to vulnerable households with the costs of Food, Energy and related essentials. This may be either directly provided by the City Council or via other voluntary sector partners.
- Direct award of supermarket voucher support to families with children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), and equivalent to FSM for Early Years age children.
- Scheme to be delivered within the £6.4M grant allocation.

The report also sought delegated authority to agree the final arrangements for delivery of the scheme.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommends that Council:-

- 1) Notes the content of the report and approves acceptance of the amount of the £6.4M grant funding from the Department for Works and Pension for financial year 2023/24 to be utilised towards the principles of the Household Support Fund scheme as outlined in the report.**

- 2) Delegates authority to the Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer), following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to agree the final arrangements for the delivery of this scheme, within the grant allocation provided, and in line with the scheme guidance published on 20th February 2023.**