

REPORT TO:	(FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	20 JUNE 2024	CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	TRACY BINGHAM – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCES & TRANSFORMATION	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CATHERINE GRIMLEY, 07979149583, CATHERINE.GRIMLEY@SOUTHDERBYSHIRE.GOV.UK	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ACCEPTANCE OF HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 5 GRANT FUNDING	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM08

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members accept the grant funding of £108,344 from Derbyshire County Council for the administration of the Household Support Fund 5 and authorise the Executive Director (Resources and Transformation) to sign the Service Level Agreement.
- 1.2 Members approve the Household Support Grant budget proposal as detailed in Appendix 1 of this Report.
- 1.3 Members grant authority to the Executive Director (Resources & Transformation) to amend the budget allocations, as detailed in this Report, in consultation with the Chair of the Finance and Management Committee.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To accept the grant amount of £108,355 awarded by Derbyshire County Council for the administration of the Household Support Fund 5.
- 2.2 To agree delegated authority to the Executive Director (Resources and Transformation) to authorise budget allocations and amendments as required for the duration of the grant entitlement period in consultation with the Chair of the Finance and Management Committee.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 Derbyshire County Council has received grant funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), known as the Household Support Fund (HSF).
- 3.2 This funding allocation is referred to as Household Support Fund 5.

- 3.3 The Household Support Fund has been awarded to upper tier and unitary authorities across England to support households facing financial hardship between 1st April 2024 and 30th September 2024.
- 3.4 Derbyshire County Council has agreed to pay a £108,344 of the Household Support Fund grant it is due to receive from the DWP to South Derbyshire District Council as part of plans to distribute monies to residents in the District of South Derbyshire.
- 3.5 Authorities have discretion on exactly how the funding is used within the scope set out in the Household Support Fund Guidance produced by the Government.

4.0 **Detail**

- 4.1 The objective of the fund is to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need with the cost of essentials. Authorities are expected to offer support throughout the duration of the fund period and must develop delivery plans to reflect this.
- 4.2 The fund is intended to support a wide range of low-income households and is not limited to those in receipt of benefits. Authorities have the flexibility within the fund to identify which vulnerable households are in most need of support and apply their own discretion when identifying eligibility.
- 4.3 Residents in South Derbyshire facing financial hardship and who are deemed eligible for support will receive financial support:
- to prevent homelessness
 - to retain current housing provision
 - to maintain or secure temporary accommodation/accommodation
 - to pay costs of food, heating and related essential cost when in temporary accommodation
 - to prevent enforcement action and financial hardship related to Council Tax arrears
 - to help maintain their wellbeing and avoid crisis.
- 4.4 Following consultation with the Housing and Customer Services Teams it is proposed that the following budget allocations are applied as detailed in table 4.6.
- 4.5 These budget allocations are largely similar to those allocated in the administration of Household Support Funds 1-4 previously. Shifts between budgets detailed below may occur depending on need in order to achieve maximum spend.

4.6

Fund/cost	Spend (maximum including admin)
Homelessness Prevention Fund top up payment	£20,000
Tenancy Services Homelessness Prevention Fund	£35,000
New Home Fund	£10,000
Long-term Attachment of Benefits Debt	£12,000
Council Tax Long Term Empty Homes	£2,000
South Derbyshire Essential Living Fund	£10,344
Customer services admin support	£4,000
Benefits DHP Top up funding	£15,000
Total	£108,344

4.7 Further details on the individual budget allocations can be found in appendix.1.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 South Derbyshire District Council will be accountable for the expenditure of up to £108,344 grant funding for Household Support Fund 5.
- 5.2 Funds should be spent or committed before 30 September 2024 and cannot be carried over for future usage.
- 5.3 There is no threat of clawback of funds as claims for actual expenditure are submitted retrospectively to Derbyshire County Council.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 None

Legal Implications

- 6.2 None

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 The acceptance of Household Support Fund 5 grant funding will support the Council Plan priority – “Support our Communities” with the key aim of supporting our most vulnerable people in our communities.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 If the grant funding is not accepted there is a risk that the council would not be able to financially support all of those in need. The grant funding will mitigate the risk of not achieving the Council Plan target of supporting our most vulnerable people in our communities.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 N/A

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 N/A

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 The Household Support fund will help assist in the health and wellbeing of the community, ensuring that those most in need are provided with the financial support they need.

Environmental Sustainability

7.4 N/A

8.0 Conclusions

N/A

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 Department Of Work and Pensions Household Support Fund Grant Guidance:
[Household Support Fund: guidance for local councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils)

10.0 Appendix 1

Household Support Fund spend proposal to Derbyshire County Council.