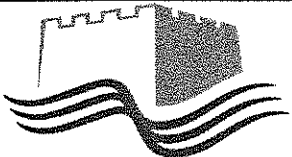


<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No: 213	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe Corporate Director Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Household Support Grant</b>	

<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>	28 October 2021
<b>General Exception or Urgency Notice published?</b>	N/A
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None
<b>Reason for seeking an Individual Mayoral Decision:</b>	The report concerns a time limited government grant to support people in hardship over the winter. Therefore, a decision is needed at pace or the council risks losing a proportion of the funding and residents will not receive the appropriate support.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since December 2020 the Council has received a number of payments from the DWP in the form of the Covid Winter Grant, the Covid Local Support Grant and now the Household Support Grant.

The purpose of this grant is to provide food and energy support as well as essential household goods to residents. The Council has been allocated £2,996,000 to be spent between 1 October 21 and 31 March 22.

This report is seeking permission for two proposed uses of the grant:

1. To make small grants to a number of organisations working with specific cohorts of people that the council wants to reach or providing a specific service and
2. To purchase up to £2,500,000 of supermarket vouchers for distribution by a range of Council departments and partners.

Both of these decisions require an Executive decision which is being sought via IMD due to the time constraints in distributing the funding and the urgent imperative to support residents with rising fuel costs as winter approaches.

Full details of the decision sought, including setting out the reasons for the recommendations and/or all the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Head of Legal Services; implications for One Tower Hamlets; Risk Assessment; Background Documents; **and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.**


## **DECISION**

1. To approve the purchase of up to £2.5 million of supermarket vouchers to be distributed to residents meeting the fund criteria
2. To give delegated authority to the Corporate Director Place to approve further supermarket voucher purchases should this funding be renewed past March 2022
3. To approve the grants listed at 3.6 of the attached report to provide food, energy vouchers and essential goods to residents, particularly hard to reach groups, on the Council's behalf
4. To give delegated authority to the Corporate Director Place to approve grants up to a maximum value of £15,000 each from this funding to VCS organisations providing support to key cohorts for eating and keeping warm where it is identified that these would be of benefit to specific groups the Council wishes to support whose purpose and needs align to the intention of the Government's Household Support Grant.

**APPROVALS**

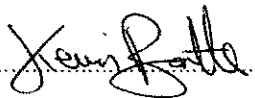
**1. Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor. I confirm that the Mayor and/or Lead Member have agreed to this decision being taken using this process.

Signed ...  ... Date 26 November 2021

**2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed .....  ..... Date 29 November 2021

**3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**

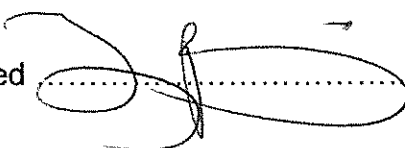
I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

I confirm that this decision has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan

Signed  ..... Date 6/12/21

**4. Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed in the recommendations above for the reasons set out in the attached report.

Signed  ..... Date 10/12/21

