

<b>Cabinet Decision – Grants Determination Sub-Committee</b>  12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Food Pantry Programme Funding – Family Action</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Bustin, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Vincent Wood, Food Security Officer Dominic Hinde, Tackling Poverty Team Leader
<b>Wards affected</b>	Whitechapel, Bethnal Green, Lansbury, Shadwell plus two others to be confirmed
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	13/12/2021
<b>Exempt information</b>	n/a
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	1. People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities;  2. A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in;  3. A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough.

## Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to the approval of a grant of £96,364 to Family Action

to fund the provision of six food pantries in Tower Hamlets. This will be funded in full from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund, and will enable each of the six sites to deliver a food pantry for at least 2.5 years. The funding of these six sites - chosen because of Family Action's existing provision in the borough and the scalability of their model - will make up the first phase of the rollout of the pantry programme, with the rest of sites to be offered to local voluntary organisations as part of an open bidding process.

- 1.2 Tower Hamlets has some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country, with 56 per cent of children living in low-income households (after housing costs) and 44 per cent of older people living in poverty. Covid has exacerbated this situation for many, with local data showing significant increases in debt levels, while LBTH has seen notable growth in the amount of food support required and provided by local partners, with the LBTH Food Hub currently providing food to 139 organisations, supporting 35,300 residents per week with emergency food distribution.
- 1.3 The Food Pantry programme will aim to tackle these issues by providing short term food relief for households in need, alongside holistic support to tackle underlying issues and referral links to existing funded information, advice and guidance services. This funding will provide support for up to 1,800 households over 2.5 years including food and access to support services and will establish a more sustainable model of food support in the borough.

## **Recommendations:**

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to issue a formal offer of grant to Family Action to a maximum of £96,364 to fund the provision of six food pantries to run for a period of at least 2.5 years;
2. Delegate the Corporate Director Place the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to recommendation 1;
3. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Section 4 of the report

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 With regards to existing rates of poverty, Tower Hamlets has some of the highest levels of deprivation, child poverty and pensioner poverty in the country with 56 per cent of children living in a low-income family prior to the pandemic (after housing costs) and 44 per cent of older people living in low-income households<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, locally held data shows that there are 13,274 households claiming local benefits who are living below the poverty

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<sup>1</sup> London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Poverty Review Sep 2021

line; households in which 16,972 children live<sup>2</sup>.

- 1.2 Poverty levels have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic for many, with local data showing that between June 2020 and October 2021 the numbers of households known to be in Council Tax or Rent Arrears had increased from 5,419 to 13,152<sup>3</sup>. UK-wide, the effects of the pandemic on household incomes saw an estimated 690,000 more people in a state of poverty in Winter 2020 compared to expected circumstances had the events of the pandemic not taken place. In addition to this the same study estimated a further 690,000 had been prevented from moving into a state of poverty due to government action including an increase of £20 to the weekly rate of Universal Credit, a temporary measure that has since been withdrawn<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.3 Food insecurity – that is being forced to reduce, change or skip meals due to a lack of money and other resources for obtaining food – was a particular area of concern over the course of the pandemic, when it was estimated 1.5million adults in the UK may have gone without food by the end of March 2020<sup>5</sup>. This had already been a systemic issue prior to the pandemic; 1 in 5 adult Londoners were found to have low or very low levels of food security in 2019<sup>6</sup>.
- 1.4 Across the borough and the country, voluntary community organisation have attempted to mitigate food insecurity. Currently 139 organisations rely on food deliveries from the Tower Hamlets Food Hub, supporting 35,300 residents with 39,650 kilograms of food per week. The Trussell Trust reports that food bank usage has increased by 128 per cent over the past five years.<sup>7</sup> The Independent Food Aid Network, IFAN, reported a 62 per cent increase in emergency food parcel distribution in October 2020 compared with October 2019. Independent food banks also saw a rise of 88 per cent over the period February to October 2020 compared to the same period in 2019<sup>8</sup>.
- 1.5 The Food Hub, which has formed part of the local authority’s response to food insecurity, is currently funded through the Household Support Grant both for running costs and supplies. This funding is currently due to end in March 2022, which will significantly reduce the amount of food support available in the borough. This will require a more strategic use of the food available through sources such as The Felix Project, such as by creating

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<sup>2</sup> LBTH LIFT dashboard data: October 2021

<sup>3</sup> LBTH LIFT dashboard data: October 2021

<sup>4</sup> Legatum Institute Study <https://li.com/news/government-benefit-changes-protecting-700000-people-from-poverty-during-covid-crisis/>

<sup>5</sup> Yougov for The Food Foundation: <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/news/covid-19-latest-impact-food>

<sup>6</sup> Tower Hamlets JSNA Spotlight on: Food Poverty, October 2019

<sup>7</sup> The Trussell Trust: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/>

<sup>8</sup> House of Commons Library: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8585/>

links with holistic services from April onwards to ensure the highest impact of these supplies.

- 1.6 The growth of organisations requiring council support for food to distribute to those in need is indicative of significant growth in need across the borough. LBTH LIFT dashboard data shows increasing debt levels and worsening financial situations, meanwhile in Tower Hamlets the council and partners are investing over £7 million to provide information, advice and guidance services, including benefits, debt and legal advice. This provides a significant opportunity to link those in need of food support with services designed to make a lasting impact to their financial wellbeing.
- 1.7 This programme will be funded in full as part of Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund, which aims to support residents to recover from the impact of the pandemic. The pantry programme is in alignment with this priority, in supporting residents who have seen a significant impact to their financial situations.
- 1.8 The programme is in alignment with key strategic priorities, including that inequality is reduced, that people access joined-up services when they need them and feel more independent, that children get the best start in life, and that the council and residents recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Do nothing: Proceeding without funding these sites would set back LBTH in its goal to open a number of food pantries in the borough. It would also mean Family Action would have to seek funding elsewhere. This could potentially mean the organisation's pantries continue to operate in a way that does not make the most of local signposted provisions that are funded by the local authority, and instead operate to offer the priorities of their funding partner. Alternatively, if the organisation were unable to find additional funding, this could mean the loss of three sites in the borough's food insecurity network. This may also require further funding of the LBTH Food Hub as the local authority's response to food insecurity while an alternative approach is pursued.
- 2.2 Fund a different organisation: While LBTH is host to a large number of voluntary and community organisations with strong local links and a track record of supporting residents, approaching an alternative group would miss out on a number of opportunities posed by working with Family Action. Beyond the risk to the three sites mentioned in 3.1, Family Action have provided plans for expenditure that align with those expected by the local authority – and given their ability to assume some centralised costs and the learnings from delivery across the UK, other organisations would likely achieve this at a higher cost. There would also be a longer lead in time, both due to the first tranche of sites having already been established, and due to Family Action's experience in having rolled out sites previously. In addition,

this track record means Family Action are well placed to specifically offer a pantry provision, operating the majority of such sites within the borough currently. Working with an alternative organisation would mean converting existing provision, such as a food bank or soup kitchen model, into a pantry model for the first time which would come with associated risks, difficulties and necessitate buy-in from the delivery partner which may not be assured. We do anticipate further expansion to this programme, and in these cases other local organisations will have the opportunity to deliver pantry sites as well as Family Action. See 3.10 for further detail.

- 2.3 Fund food banks: As an alternative provision to funding the pantry scheme or the LBTH food hub, the local authority could directly fund food bank provisions already in operation within the borough, or support new initiatives offering such a service. A growing consensus within foodbank organisations and movements the UK and US in particular has opposed such an approach that would see their continued use, with the UK's largest foodbank network the Trussell Trust advocating in favour of wrap around support as opposed to crisis-only assistance to facilitate an end to the need for foodbanks<sup>9</sup>. The direct funding of food bank provisions would help to address extreme need but would not assist in targeting the root cause issues that create food insecurity – such as household debt and a lack of household income – in the manner a food pantry network would.

### **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Given the need outlined above, it is proposed to invest £96,364 into funding the establishment of six food pantries, providing a contract to guarantee two and a half years of delivery at each site. The grant will be provided to Family Action, a charity with extensive experience of establishing and running food pantries across the country, and existing links to sites in Tower Hamlets.

The pantries will open in two cohorts, with three ready to launch immediately at the following sites:

- 1) Manorfield Primary School, Wyvis Street, Poplar, E14 6QD
- 2) Cyprus Street Estate Office, Bethnal Green, E2 0PD
- 3) Fieldgate Mansions Community Centre, 15 Romford Street, E1 1HX

The second cohort of sites will launch shortly after, with a target launch of April 2022. One will be situated in the Ocean Children and Family Centre in Shadwell, and two others in locations which are yet to be determined, but which we expect to be other Children's Centres across the borough, chosen according to poverty data.

- 3.2 The proposed model is that of a 'food pantry'. This is an alternative model to a food bank and offers a number of key benefits. These are outlined below.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.trusselltrust.org/about/our-strategic-plan/>

- I. The model provides greater dignity through choice and direct engagement with the provision. The sites will be laid out as a shop, and members will be able to choose the items they want. Goods will be categorised and each member will be allowed a certain amount from each category.
- II. Clients pay a nominal amount for the service. This further preserves dignity as the provision is not a handout, and also generates some revenue to support future years' delivery.
- III. The pantry will take referrals in, ensuring that those most in need and those who will most benefit from the provision can be identified and supported.
- IV. Referrals will come from a wide range of local services. Each pantry will be rooted in the community, with referrals taken from local schools, mosques, partner organisations, housing providers and through council services and data.
- V. Pantry members receive holistic support which aims to address root cause issues. Each member will be inducted and surveyed on their welfare on registration, and appropriate links will be made with other services relating to the reason for which they were referred in. Engagement with these services is a requirement for ongoing membership.
- VI. Memberships are by default time limited. This means members pass out as root cause issues are addressed and circumstances are improved, increasing the number of households which can be supported. The provider will be allowed discretion to extend memberships where necessary.
- VII. Support is provided all the way through membership. This allows service providers to maintain relationships with service users, check how effective referrals have been and to see if any other support is needed.

The food provided is not supposed to replace a weekly shop. Food will be provided by redistribution charities including the Felix Project, and as such the types of food available will vary. The provision is designed to offer a variety of different items which will far exceed the cost of membership (typically around £15 value per week for £3.50 membership, but subject to increases as food supply increases), to reduce the amount needed to be spent elsewhere. Family Action will also seek to develop relationships with local businesses who may be able to provide surplus food if suitable. When available, non-food items, such as toiletries and cleaning products, may also be provided.

- 3.3 This model has been tested at a pilot site in Tower Hamlets, where in the first nine months 93 households were supported, comprising of 549 individuals. The pilot was situated on the Burdett Estate, and made links with local schools as well as the area's mosque, housing provider and others. As a result the pilot received significant buy-in from the local community. Many lessons were learning about effective operation and cost management, despite the difficulty of operating through a pandemic year. Meanwhile, similar pantries have been established and have exemplified the sustainability of the

model in boroughs such as Barking & Dagenham, Lewisham, Croydon, Lambeth, Havering, and Waltham Forest.

- 3.4 Pantry membership will support vulnerable residents in both the short and medium term. At the point of access the primary benefit for service users will be cost-effective access to good quality food items. Pantries will aim to offer food at an estimated value of £15 in return for a £3.50 membership, giving a net benefit of £11.50 per week or £299 for the duration of a typical six-month membership. If all six sites operate at capacity, this would offer an estimated total food save of £107,640 for service users across a half year period, and £538,200 over the duration of the funding period.
- 3.5 On a long-term basis, benefits will be derived from the links with support services. At the Burdett Food Store, referrals were made and actions taken on a broad range of issues, including debt and budgeting, benefits, housing, homelessness, employability, health and wellbeing, drugs and alcohol, and domestic abuse. Looking specifically at debt, 60 of the 93 households reported debt issues, and through access to advice services total debt was reduced by £24,014.78 (a reduction of 57%). It is difficult to quantify expectations for what benefits will be seen, but through effective referrals in and out the potential is large.
- 3.6 Overall, across two and half years, six pantries will provide an estimated £538,200 net benefit to households in savings on food costs, benefitting 1,800 households. If the household size is consistent with what was seen during the pilot, this would benefit 10,626 individuals over the period for which they are funded. Each pantry will be open for at least one session each week where members can attend, and opening times will differ between sites to ensure there are sessions people with other commitments such as work or childcare can attend. An additional benefit is the majority of available food is received from food distribution charities, and so is directly addressing food waste.
- 3.7 Pantries will also optimise access to provisions that have already been funded in the borough. LBTH and other local partners are spending over £7 million on information, advice and guidance services. This includes contracts funded through the Local Community Fund and through health and social care. We know that many people will be reluctant to access services initially or may be unaware that they exist. A key symptom of debt or poor financial health will be inability to purchase food, and so households are likely to be keen on this offer if referred in. This gives us a strong opportunity to enhance the reach and the effectiveness of these existing services into groups which may not currently be engaging.
- 3.8 This model has the benefit of providing a food support service which goes beyond crisis alleviation to diminish risk of dependency on services. Of the 139 local voluntary services that currently make use of food from the LBTH food hub, a significant number of these are crisis-mitigating initiatives. While crisis alleviating provisions such as food banks and soup kitchens can meet issues of immediate hunger, they cannot mitigate the reasons for food insecurity which are predominantly financial, and therefore can only serve to

buy time until other life circumstances change for a service user. This is in part why organisations in the US and the UK, in particular the UK's largest foodbank network The Trussell Trust, have advocated for a move away from emergency food provision and towards wrap around support that addresses root cause issues. In turn this approach that works to diminish dependency also helps to empower service users by offering the dignity of a pathway out of situations that cause food insecurity.

3.9 Links with local partners and referrals into the service will be integrated into the provision. As per the pilot, significant effort will be made in ensuring effective referrals into the service, thus ensuring the provision targets the people who will benefit the most. During the pilot, most referrals were made through the local primary school, the mutual aid group working on the estate, the local mosque and LBTH, while some also came from the estate's housing provider. Through use of LBTH Children's Centres as sites we also hope to heavily involve them in identifying families in need, as well as taking a tailored approach to each site to involve the community assets nearby.

### 3.10 Why Family Action?

i. Local track record

Family Action were identified early in the process of rolling out these sites as an organisation that had a track record of delivery in line with the goals of the project in the local area. While a national charity, they have established three locally managed sites within the borough (with non-LBTH funding) that operate within a very similar pantry model to the one proposed by LBTH and trialled in the pilot.

ii. Existing sites

Availability of appropriate sites is the biggest limiting factor in setting up a pantry programme. Family Action are currently running three sites in the borough in sites which have already had the required capital investment. As their previous Barclays funding has expired, this presents a key opportunity to fund Family Action to deliver the LBTH pantry model in these sites. The sites could not be taken over without Family Action.

iii. Sustainability and cost

The agreed funding model in 3.11 will be enough investment from LBTH to ensure 2.5 years of delivery guaranteed by Family Action. This will ensure delivery into at least the medium-term and will be cemented in a grant agreement. Their model of sharing staffing across sites in the borough will reduce central costs and ensure best value.

iv. Timing

Family Action, through their current presence and national expertise, will guarantee a short lead-in time from agreed funding to delivery. The first cohort will be running immediately, and the second will be established by the start of next financial year. This has the benefit of ensuring provision is in place for when the Household Support Grant

expired and will mean this grant can be used to fund capital set-up costs such as white goods, saving a significant amount of money for LBTH.

v. National track record

Family Action are one of a small number of national organisations engaged in food pantry rollout and have extensive experience of setting up and delivering similar projects across the country in partnership with local authorities, across multiple London boroughs, as well Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham and elsewhere. They are part of a national charity, but each club is embedded in the local community and tailored to local needs. Their charitable status has the added benefit of allowing them to raise funding through channels not available to LBTH as a local authority. They also have experience of working in a wide range of different settings – from children’s centres, to faith groups, to schools, to hotels for vulnerably housed families. As a national charity, they offer a wide range of additional services for members, e.g. FamilyLine helpline and befriender service, LifeSkills programme (financial, employability, etc), and a grants programme.

vi. Opportunity for other providers

While it is proposed that these six pantries are to be run by Family Action, there are plans to further expand the pantry programme and these opportunities will be made available to other local organisations to deliver on the same model. Ensuring there is a strong network established in the borough in partnership with a national expert will embed learning and provide opportunities for subsequent local providers to learn effective delivery methods. This grant will ensure their presence in the borough for at least 2.5 years.

3.11 The terms of the grant will ensure two and a half years of delivery, and Family Action have agreed the proposal on these terms. The extent of the service will depend on the amount of funding they are able to raise, and the funding model outlined is based on a worst-case scenario where very limited additional funding can be raised across the two and a half years. In this case, LBTH will fund the first year, and receipts from the membership fees (assuming an 80 per cent collection rate, at full capacity of 60 each week across six clubs) will cover much of the rest of the provision.

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Medium term financial model</b>			
	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Income</b>	
	<b>Cost of delivery</b>	<b>LBTH grant</b>	<b>Membership income</b>
Year 1	£96,364	£96,364	£52,416
Year 2	£96,364	£0	£52,416
Year 3 (six months)	£48,182	£0	£26,208
<b>Total</b>	<b>£240,910</b>	<b>£227,404</b>	

This will leave only an estimated £13,506 to be raised by Family Action to ensure delivery for two and a half years if the collection rate assumption is correct.

However, it is hoped that through establishing the six sites, Family Action will be able to leverage in further funding from external partners, which will allow for longer provision and for the receipts from membership fees to be put to additional food and supplies purchases. Family Action have stated their intention to maintain the pantries beyond the grant period with external funding as needed, using a fundraising capacity made possible by their scale to raise money directly for pantries within the borough and ensure they are sustainable into the future.

By funding now and equipping each site with a freezer from the Household Support Grant we can guard against fluctuations in food supply to a much greater extent. This will reduce the cost to Family Action of potentially needing to purchase items.

- 3.12 Success of this project will be monitored through an initial survey of members' financial and wellbeing situations, plus regular check-ins, to determine appropriate courses of action to address root cause issues. We will monitor what actions have been taken, what outcomes are achieved, and provide an exit survey. This will allow us to monitor quantitative data on financial outcomes and savings from food support, as well as qualitative data on improvements in wellbeing. At the point of the exit survey, the provider will decide on whether an extension to the membership is appropriate.
- 3.13 An initial mapping exercise has been conducted to assess need against potential locations (see Appendix One), taking into account the requirement for those accessing the pantry to live nearby so food can be transported in accordance with food safety requirements. The initial three sites are confirmed and ready to commence delivery (see 4.1) as soon as grant funding is available. The second cohort of sites will launch after final confirmation of the sites. One has been confirmed as the Ocean Children and Family Centre and the other two will be Children's Centres in key strategic locations, which also have the necessary space and access from which to run the service.

## **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Data from the programme's pilot presents effective evidence of the impact of targeted outreach with regards to equal access to services with particular regard to the protected characteristics outlined in the equalities act. Of those who attended the pantry in the first nine months, 53 per cent were from the Bangladeshi community – the largest attending group followed by Somali service users (14 per cent) English, (13 per cent), and mixed race service users (8 per cent). Service users were 74 per cent female and 26 per cent male, with 22 per cent above the age of 55 and 65 per cent between the ages of 35 and 54.

- 4.2 This programme will be specifically targeted to promote equality. Data has shown that our work in the pilot was effective in targeting provision at BAME residents. Poverty rates are highest for people in households where the head of the household is from the Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic groups<sup>10</sup> - while many from these ethnic groups work in industries most affected by Covid, such as hospitality and chauffeuring.<sup>11</sup>
- 4.3 All current sites identified are accessible, and any future sites will be assessed for their suitability based on accessibility criteria.
- 4.4 While there will be a disproportionate impact on residents with certain protected characteristics, this disproportionate impact will be positive and therefore no equalities impact assessment is required.

## **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
  - Consultations,
  - Environmental (including air quality),
  - Risk Management,
  - Crime Reduction,
  - Safeguarding.
  - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 The approach outlined offers good value for money as a preventative measure, as a means of drawing to a close other food insecurity initiatives, and as one which utilises best practice to ensure delivery is in line with expectation.
- 5.3 By helping service users to reduce debt, alleviating the pressure of food costs by offering affordable goods, and by signposting to services that will help to boost household income, the provision is built to provide long term solutions that will alleviate future pressures on local authority provisions. Given the correlation between financial insecurity and health outcomes, provisions which reduce household financial insecurity will also create value in a reduced burden on the healthcare system.
- 5.4 The quick rollout of pantries will also coincide with the end of funding for the LBTH Food Hub, which a number of services in the borough utilise to process goods from organisations like The Felix Project, and to receive goods funded

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<sup>10</sup> House of Commons Library: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn07096/>

<sup>11</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2020-21>

by the local authority from organisations such as HisChurch. This emergency provision designed to meet the food insecurity issues brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic has proven expensive, particularly compared to the relative costs of funding a food pantry network in the borough, and as such the offering of pantries creates a better value alternative to the indirect funding of crisis mitigating provisions.

5.5 Family Action have presented a plan for delivery that fits within the financial expectations of the local authority, and as such working with an established organisation with a track record for delivery and scalable model reduces costs that may otherwise be incurred by the project.

5.6 In working closely with the Felix Project, the pantry provision outlined will utilise repurposed foods which would otherwise go to landfill. This use of good quality repurposed foods reduces the environmental impact of wastage, ensures better efficiency within the food system and makes the most of land and resources that is put into farming and livestock practices.

## **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 This request is to seek the approval to make a grant of £96K to Family Action, a national charity, to fund the provision of 6 food pantries in Tower Hamlets. An allocation of £100K has already been earmarked against the Mayors Covid recovery fund (approved by Cabinet 30 June 2021). The project is expected to last two and a half years at a total cost of £241K, however the councils contribution will be limited to a maximum of £96k with the balance coming from income generated by 'membership' of the pantries and by additional funds raised by Family Action. This model has already be trialled successfully in the borough and by establishing further sites it is hoped that Family Action will be able to secure further funding from external partners to enable the scheme to be extended.

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grant described in this report.

7.2 Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 requires every local authority to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. The Council has to actively work to reduce food insecurity making sure people have access to food.

7.3 Therefore, the provision of this grant complies with the Council statutory obligations to improve the health and wellbeing of people in its area. The Council will constantly monitor the grant to ensure that such obligations are always met, and funding distributed fairly.

7.4 The grant monitoring will be supported by appropriate agreement terms. The agreement will ensure that the funding is used in compliance with the objectives and conditions highlighted in this report. This will assist the Council achieving Best Value in line with the law.

- 7.5 The Council is required when exercising its functions to comply with the duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, namely to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This project will be specifically targeted to promote equality focusing on the needs of vulnerable people, ensuring that measures put in place now do not lead to an increase in discrimination and disadvantage. The grant monitoring process will assess any further equalities issues that may arise and ensure that these are dealt with appropriately.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- List any linked reports
- State NONE if none.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Proposed pantry locations

**Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.
- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

**Officer contact details for documents:**

Or state N/A

## Appendix 1 – proposed pantry locations

All households claiming Housing Benefit  
or Council Tax reductions April 2021

Numbers per LSOA

