

Key Decision



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Urgent Key Decision

Request to a scrutiny chair that an urgent key decision be made without being published in the Register of Key Decisions, and/or that key decision be exempt from call in for scrutiny.

Decision maker	The Executive
<p>What is the decision?</p>	<p>That the Executive agree the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The government funding for the Household Support Fund of £6.453m is mainly used for direct awards to support residents during the winter months. Although the Council will quantify the admin costs, it will not deduct all of these from the grant award. 2. The Council administers the Household Support Fund scheme in four key parts to support Manchester residents, this includes the provision of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Support to families to provide free school meals during the holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free school meals for the remainder of the school holidays in this financial year. • £15 per pupil per week. Money will be distributed to households on a pupil basis via schools. (ii) A universal offer to recipients of Council Tax Support and other key groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A universal offer that includes a payment to all households in the city in receipt of CTS (being used as broad universal indicator of need and responsibility for housing costs and that avoids a new claim process). Also includes other key groups, including care leavers responsible for the Council Tax bill in their property and residents who are exempt from council tax due to being severely mentally impaired. • This universal offer provides a one-off cash grant of £100 to households with dependent children and £70 to households without children. (iii) A discretionary Household Support scheme <p>Provide a discretionary scheme using £300k of the grant funding.</p> <p>Households with responsibility for household bills and who are in receipt of means tested benefits. This could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those that may not have qualified or be in

	<p>receipt of Council Tax Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents living in shared or other accommodation where they do not have a liability for Council Tax but have responsibility for household bills, for example utility bills. <p>(iv) Third sector support offer</p> <p>The Council will set aside a further £300k to work with advice agencies and the third sector in the city. This will include further work with the Manchester Food partnership.</p> <p>This element of the scheme will be developed under delegation in the weeks ahead and will include liaison with key partners.</p> <p>3. Note that the final published version of the government guidance to local authorities has not been received. On this basis, agree that continuing development and delivery of the scheme is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Deputy Leader. This will include the budget management as well as scheme eligibility and delivery. If significant changes to the scheme are required, it will be brought back to December Executive.</p>
<p>List Non-confidential reports Reports to be considered that can be made available to the public</p>	<p>Executive 17 November 2021 - Household Support Fund</p>
<p>List Confidential reports Reports to be considered which contain confidential or exempt information</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Reason for confidentiality</p>	<p>N/a</p>
<p>Intended date of decision</p>	<p>17 November</p>
<p>Officer contact details For any further information</p>	<p>Julie Price Director of Customer Services and Transactions 0161 953 8202 julie.price@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Has the decision been published in the Register of Key Decisions?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Reasons for special urgency Explain why it cannot be published in the Register of Key Decisions with 28 days notice.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Is exemption from call-in for scrutiny needed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Explain how any delay will seriously prejudice the legal or financial position of the Council</p>	<p>Any delay will compromise the Council's position by not meeting the expectations in the grant conditions and not support vulnerable families. This may lead to a surplus which would be returned to central government.</p> <p>The aim is to issue £1.7m to schools in the city to provide fsm during the school holidays and issue 53,582 payments of either £70 or £100 to households in the city in receipt of CTS. This amounts to £4.173m. Any delay would mean that payments would not be received until after Christmas and later into January. We want to get the money out asap to provide some assurance to households to support their budgets.</p>	
<p>Scrutiny Chair who has agreed the decision is reasonable and urgent</p>	<p>Name</p>	<p>Councillor Sarah Russell – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>
	<p>Signed</p>	<p>Signature redacted for publication purposes</p>
	<p>Date</p>	<p>9 November 2021</p>
<p>Request prepared by:</p>	<p>Julie Price, Director of Customer Services and Transactions</p>	