

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS**

<b>Decision No:</b>	<b>D210006EM</b>
<b>Decision Taken By:</b>	Leader of the Borough Council
<b>Authority under which Decision Taken:</b>	Emergency provisions for decision making during a period of serious and unexpected disruption under Part 7 of the Constitution.
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Executive Key Decision
<b>Date:</b>	17 December 2021

**Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

**HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUNDING**

Kent County Council had received a substantial allocation of grant funding from Government to support those most in need this winter. Further guidance was available on the Gov.uk website [Household Support Fund: final guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/household-support-fund-final-guidance-for-county-councils-and-unitary-authorities-in-england)

In response to the requirement to work closely with district/borough councils, and other local partners to identify a broad range of vulnerable households across their local area, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council had been allocated a sum of £160,227.59 to distribute.

The purpose of the grant was “*to support households who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional cases of genuine emergency) this winter as the economy recovers.*” Eligible spend included:

- Food
- Energy and water (including sewerage);
- Essentials linked to energy and water (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.);
- Wider essentials including but are not limited to, support with other bills including broadband or phone bills, clothing, and essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle or paying for fuel;
- Housing Costs in exceptional cases of genuine emergency (eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments must first be considered and whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant); and

- Reasonable administrative costs.

The passported sum of £160,227.59 was to be spent in accordance with the eligibility criteria set out above and number of options were reviewed as immediate priorities ahead of the Christmas period.

Finally, all Borough Councillors would be asked to assist in the identification and nomination of other partners for future tranches of support.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) £15,000 be awarded to Tonbridge Baptist Church for food and fuel vouchers for those residents of the TMBC area;
- (2) £15,000 be awarded to NW Kent CAB for food and fuel vouchers for those residents of TMBC area;
- (3) £2,000 be awarded to each of the following food banks
  - East Malling Community Larder
  - Snodland Food Assist
  - Aylesford food bank
  - Feast (Tonbridge)
- (4) future waves of funding set within the context of the eligible spend above be agreed under delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Transformation in liaison with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation & Property.

Taken in accordance with the Emergency Provisions set out at Part 7 Paragraph 1.3 of the Constitution and in agreement with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Signed Leader: M Boughton

Signed Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: J Sergison

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 17 December 2021

This decision is urgent and therefore not subject to call-in (in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 15 (i) as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution) and may be implemented immediately.