

Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #360

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Household Support Fund - Pensioner Support

Name of Project Sponsor

Hannah Perrott

Name of Project Manager

Louise West

Name of Project Lead

Lisa Bedford

Please give a brief description of the project

To deliver a cash voucher scheme via the post office to pension credit recipients with data provided by the Department of Work and Pensions as part of the governments Household Support Fund. This has been deemed the most appropriate route to try and achieve a third of the funding allocated to directly support pensioners across the county with the increased cost of living.

Data Protection screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

The Household Support Fund is a government initiative to help vulnerable residents with the rising costs of living, primarily for food, fuel and other essentials. The scheme was launched in October 2021 and extended at the end of March 2022. A further extension has just been announced, the details of which are yet to be confirmed but it is anticipated it will be similar to the current scheme. An allocation of £3.95 million was confirmed in October for a period of 6 months and at the end of March 2022 a further £3.95million was announced.

The criteria has changed in the two separate allocations, the first scheme had to spend at least 50% of the funding on households with children, and from April 2022, the scheme must spend at least 33% on households with children and a further 33% on households with pensioners (those of state pension age by the 31st September 2022). The scheme is operated through countywide schemes and at a more local level by working with our district councils across the county. This includes free school meal vouchers in some school holidays issued through schools, countywide fuel bill support through a programme of schemes delivered by Act on Energy for the council and many local initiatives delivered directly by the district council or through voluntary sector partners in their local areas such as; Citizen's Advice, Food Banks etc.

This specific DPIA is in relation to pensioner support, which will be via a direct approach to pension credit recipients in the county in order to post a voucher which can be cashed at an post office, to assist with the increase in the cost of living.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

To provide a one off (or repeat depending on the criteria of an funding extensions) cash voucher to all pension credit recipients in the county.

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The project will provide £75 per household for around 11,500 pensioners that are in receipt of pension credit to support with the increase in the cost of living. Vouchers will be issued by post via the post office and can be cashed at the post office upon the submission of specific ID.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

New

Was consultation carried out on this project?

No

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

People

Service Area

Communities

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

April 2023

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)? Yes

Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing the assessment.

Have you undertaken an assessment of the project to know if there will likely be an increase in GHG emissions? No

3 Resources

Will the project result in increased consumption of electricity, gas or other heating fuels? Yes

e.g. project may require use of additional buildings, lighting and heating in buildings, additional ICT equipment, etc.

Please explain your answer below:

The one off cash voucher is to be put towards food, fuel and essentials liked to food and fuel therefore residents may wish to add to their heating budget to enable more use of the heating in their homes.

Will the project reduce energy needs and result in reduced consumption? No

e.g. disposal of WCC property assets

Will the project require additional water resources leading to an increase in water consumption? No

e.g. increased use of water through construction processes

Might there be a decrease in water consumption? No

e.g. will the project involve water saving measures or initiatives

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? No

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

4 Transport

Will the project result in more people needing to travel? No

e.g. will there be additional cars on the road

Have alternative transport modes been considered? No

e.g. could use be made of public transport/walking/cycling etc.

5 Waste

Is there likely to be an increase in waste as a result of the project? No

e.g. construction waste, packaging waste etc.

Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? No

e.g. will recycling facilities be available as part of the project

6 Wildlife and Biodiversity

Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? No

e.g. will the project involve removal of green space/trees; have wildlife surveys been considered; result in enhancements to green infrastructure; increased biodiversity opportunities etc.?

Has a preliminary ecological appraisal been undertaken? No

Has there been consideration of statutory assessments? No

e.g. Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening?

N.B. This is a matter of legal compliance - All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration – typically referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment screening' – should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects.

7 Pollution to land/air/water

Is there a risk of pollution to the local environment? No

e.g.

- will there be surface water run-off or discharge into local water source?
- will there be any impact on local water quality?
- will any waste water require treatment?
- is there the potential for spillage of chemicals?
- is there the potential for emissions to air from combustion processes resulting in poor air quality?

8 Resilience to climate risks

Could climate risks affect your project? No

N.B. some projects may be more sensitive to future changes in the climate e.g. hotter and drier summers; milder and wetter winters; increased likelihood of extreme weather events. These climate risks may affect project delivery and should be considered at the early stages of project development.

Has the impact of extreme weather events on the project been considered? No

e.g. heat waves and flooding.

Is there a business/project continuity plan in place to ensure climate risks are minimised? No

e.g. can you ensure that the project is resilient to climate risks and can continue to deliver on outcomes.

Could the project exacerbate climate risks? No

e.g. increase flood risk or worsen temperature extremes in the locality.

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? No

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

9 Historic Environment

Have you checked with the WCC Historic Environment team as to whether there are any impacts on the Historic Environment (negative or positive)?

No

Check every development with the Historic Environment Team at the planning stage of each project. Further assessment may be required depending on the nature and scale of development. There may also be design options that would negate any need for further assessment (and lessen costs), or even opportunities to enhance heritage assets or their setting through the development.

Does the development have the potential to result in any impacts to the historic environment or opportunities for enhancement?

No

If yes, then further assessment will be required. This could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks if the potential is clearly understood and relatively low, or a more comprehensive desk-based and/or field investigation prior to development.

10 Procurement

Could any procurement associated with the project have a detrimental environmental impact? No

e.g. procurement of goods from overseas that have to be shipped; use of unsustainable materials or materials that cannot be recycled at the end of their use?

Is there likely to be increased Greenhouse Gas emissions from products purchased for the project? No

e.g. carbon emissions from transport and manufacturing

Will you be able to make use of sustainable products? No

e.g. recycled, local, ethical etc.

Have you considered the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012? No

All major contracts let by the Council (those of more than £100,000 in total value) will be expected to deliver a meaningful contribution to our vision of Social Value in the county. The Act requires us to consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

– please see: [Social Value](#)

11 Declaration

I have confirmed that to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I have confirmed that I will make sure that Environmental Sustainability has been and continues to be considered throughout the project life cycle and should circumstances change in the project a further Environmental Sustainability Assessment Screening will be carried out.

12 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

15/06/2022 10:17:31

Screening Submitted Date Time

31/05/2022 13:16:18

Last Reopened Date Time

No Date Recorded

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

01/06/2022 13:07:46

Approved/Rejected Date Time

15/06/2022 10:17:31

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

13.0 People with access to the original screening

[Lisa Bedford \(LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk)

13.1 People with access to this environmental sustainability assessment

[Lisa Bedford \(LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk)

14 Direct Questions**Question:**

Many thanks for completing the Environmental Sustainability FIA.

Please note the following comments for each of the sections. Your responses are required before we can approve completion of the FIA:

3) Resources - could Act on Energy be instructed to signpost recipients of the funding to other energy efficiency schemes (e.g. LADS; ECO) and provide energy efficiency advice to recipients when they seek fuel debt advice? This will enable householders to become more aware of the energy they are using in the home, and become more energy efficient, consequently reducing their ongoing energy costs.

If the funding is to be used to purchase white goods - can the highest energy efficiency (A rated) models be stipulated?

Asked by Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 08/06/2022 13:05:36

Lisa Bedford (LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Response:

The one off payment is via a one sided template letter with a bar code to residents. If there is space we can add in some wording, it is quite limited though. If this wording could be provided that would be great.

Lisa Bedford (LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 08/06/2022 13:23:54

Response:

Hi Lisa, that will be fine, please liaise with Heather Dawes in the Sustainability Team and she will support with the wording.

Kind regards,

Katie

Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 15/06/2022 10:17:02

Add Response