

Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #486

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Household Support Fund

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

The Household Support Fund has been made available to local councils through the Department of Work and Pensioners to support households in the most need; particularly families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills.

The Household Support Fund (HSF) will provide support to those most in need by providing vouchers or payments to eligible households or making direct provisions to help with food and goods through a variety of mechanisms.

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. Since October 2021, Worcestershire has been awarded £3.95m of funding every six months from Household Support Fund schemes to provide support for residents in need of help with food, fuel and other essential household costs. In the Autumn Statement 2022, the Chancellor confirmed that the Household Support Fund would be extended for a further 12 months starting in April 2023, and this equates to just under £7.9 million for Worcestershire to use to support residents until 31st March 2024.

Confirmation and guidance from the Department of Work and Pensions was received in February 2023.

Government specified parameters for use of these funds over the previous three schemes has included;

- a) HSF 1 – ringfence a minimum of 50% of the grant on households with children with a focus on food
- b) HSF 2 – ringfence a minimum of a third of the grant on households with children and a further third for pensioners with a general support around food and energy and wider linked essentials
- c) HSF 3 – no funding ringfenced to specific cohorts but a larger focus on energy costs

The new fund from April 2023 is intended to provide assistance to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with the increase in living costs linked to energy and food. Whilst the general purpose of the fund is the same as that provided previously in HSF 3, there is a stronger focus on energy and supporting those vulnerable groups that may be facing additional costs such as; families on low incomes with children of all ages, pensioners, disabled people, carers and care leavers.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

To provide assistance to vulnerable households across the county in most need of support to help with the increase in living costs linked to energy and food.

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

Proposals are in line with government grant conditions and are modelled around local understanding of need across different categories, informed by local intelligence and previous delivery of the funds. The majority of the activity is a continuation of the schemes currently in operation in HSF 3. Funding will only be used for schemes that are free to eligible residents.

- Food - Food voucher for all school holidays until the end of March 2024 for children in receipt of free school meals. Dedicated Food bank funding delegated to District Councils

Energy - Extend Act on Energy scheme to support with debt, vouchers and new heating measures for eligible residents. Home visits and minor measure installations through Age UK's in the county. Energy voucher scheme (Warmth on prescription) through primary care for residents with heat affected medical conditions in each district collaborative area.

- Food/Energy - Extend pensioner, carer, person with disability scheme delivered through Worcestershire Advice Network organisations, voucher payment depending on number of criteria met. Care leavers one off winter payment. Shared lives carers one off winter payment. Small appliances fund linked to the growth and skills programme in the council.

- District Councils - District councils to distribution in line with grant conditions. Includes in house support and through external voluntary sector partners.

- Advice Services - Extension of debt workers supporting energy debt applications alongside Act on Energy

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

Existing

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 2024

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 payments can be put towards food, fuel and essentials linked 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? Yes

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? Yes

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?

Please explain your answer below and include any actions that have been identified to mitigate these risks:

The project involves supporting people to change their heating system. This could result in the removal of oil heating systems which has a risk of pollution. Ensuring that an OFTEC qualified engineer is appointed and the oil tank is checked would help to mitigate the risk.

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

20/03/2023 11:31:29

Screening Submitted Date Time

16/03/2023 17:00:35

Last Reopened Date Time

20/03/2023 10:20:53

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

20/03/2023 10:32:53

Approved/Rejected Date Time

20/03/2023 11:31:29

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

13.0 People with access to the original screening

[Carla Kesterton \(CKesterton@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:CKesterton@worcestershire.gov.uk)

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

13.1 People with access to this environmental sustainability assessment

[Carla Kesterton \(CKesterton@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:CKesterton@worcestershire.gov.uk)

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

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Direct Questions

Question:

For question 2 I would recommend that while the project could result in an increase in GHG emissions, the new heating systems has the potential to reduce emissions as it would be expected a more efficient heating system would be installed.

For question 7 I would recommend considering a risk of pollution if the project is removing an oil heating system. Ensuring that an OFTEC qualified engineer would be appointed and the oil tank is checked would help to mitigate the risk.

Asked by Heather Dawes (HDawes@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 20/03/2023 10:20:09

Carla Kesterton (CKesterton@worcestershire.gov.uk), and Lisa Bedford (LBedford@worcestershire.gov.uk) have been asked this question.

Currently Unanswered

[Add Response](#)