

EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

A record of delegated decisions made by individual Portfolio holders or officers on Thursday, 19 May 2022.

The reports (unless exempt under Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Act as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated and, in all the circumstances of the case, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it) are available for inspection from the Solicitor to the Council, South Lakeland House, Kendal.

DEX/1 SUPPORTING A FAIRER SOUTH LAKELAND:

Summary

Consideration was given to two new funds, which had been designed to mitigate financial hardship and promote financial resilience in South Lakeland. The first fund was aimed at supporting local councils and community groups to develop projects to alleviate poverty, with the second being focused on enabling partner agencies to work on the frontline to provide immediate, low level, financial support to individuals to avert a crisis.

The proposals were in support of the motion passed by full Council in October 2020 declaring a Poverty Emergency in South Lakeland and would see the Council consider applications from Town and Parish Councils, local charities, community interest companies, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations in South Lakeland. The report set out that applications must have clear and measurable outputs and address poverty alleviation by supporting local communities and residents to become more sustainable and financially resilient.

The report highlighted an Emergency fund, which would be set up and made available to the South Lakeland Building Financial Resilience Partners (as described in paragraph 3.14 of the report) to support individuals/ residents (up to £200 per individual/ household) to meet immediate and severe financial need. The Emergency Fund would be awarded to Partner Agencies and all payments made would be logged and reported back to the Council via quarterly review meetings. It was explained that this would enable an analysis of impact and outcome against the Council Plan targets of halving the proportion of households in poverty and eliminating child poverty.

Decision

RESOLVED – That:-

- (1) the “Fairer South Lakeland Fund” be approved and be established as outlined in paragraphs 3.11-3.12, to which local community organisations may bid for financial support to implement projects which support the achievement of SLDC’s aim of ‘A fairer South Lakeland, a South Lakeland for everyone’ and “Halve the proportion of households in poverty and eliminate child poverty”. The Fund be financed through the use of unclaimed councillor allowances in 2020/21, which have been allocated to a ‘Poverty Alleviation Fund’;**

- (2) a single round of applications be agreed and be invited, with the total of all awards to be contained within a total expenditure from the Fund of £25,000. The Operational Lead People, Welfare and Income Maximisation, and the Strategy Lead specialist in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation to approve grant awards by administrative decision in accordance with the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 3.11 – 3.12 of this report;
- (3) Subject to financial capacity remaining in the Poverty Alleviation Fund, authority be delegated to the Operational Lead People, Welfare and Income Maximisation/ Strategy Lead Specialist in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Poverty alleviation to approve a further bidding round. The Strategy Lead Specialist in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation to approve grant awards by administrative decision.;
- (4) an emergency fund be agreed, established and made available to the South Lakeland Building Financial Resilience Partners (as described in paragraph 3.14) for the support of clients in need of financial support to avert an immediate and serious financial crisis as set out in paragraph 3.13. The Fund be financed through the use of unclaimed councillor allowances in 2020/21, which have been allocated to a 'Poverty Alleviation Fund'. The Fund be established to a value of £2,000 (total) to be awarded to Partner Agencies with authority for the Partner Agencies to make payments to individual cases (based on the criteria detailed 3.14) being a maximum of £200 per individual/ household; and
- (5) The Legal Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer), Strategy Lead Specialist and the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Poverty alleviation, be authorised to approve the terms of, and enter into, the relevant funding agreements.

Reason for Decision

This decision links to the Council Plan priority for a fairer South Lakeland by aiming to:-

Halve the proportion of households in poverty;
 Eliminate child poverty;
 Protect the vulnerable;
 Help people out of poverty; and
 Deliver financial advice and support to vulnerable people.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The Council could use the allocated funding available for tackling poverty for specific schemes – however officers had consulted with partners through the Building Financial Resilience Partnership and the proposed approaches have had most support. It is considered that the present situation for many residents is such an immediate and serious matter that community and individual projects which support resilience and help avert a crisis is the best option.