

Cabinet

3RD OCTOBER 2022

Subject: Cost of Living

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. Note the current status of the mandatory scheme.
2. Approve the Discretionary Cost of living Scheme.
3. Approve delegation for use of any underspends / virements to the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

Reasons:

The reason for this report is to provide details of Welsh Government's Cost of Living Support Scheme including a proposal in respect of the associated Discretionary Scheme, for which the Council can determine a use locally.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted No

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

- Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

Directorate:
Corporate Services

Names of Directors:
Chris Moore

Report Authors:
Helen Pugh

Designations:

Director of Corporate
Services

Head of Revenues &
Financial Compliance

Tel / Email addresses:

01267 224120
cmoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 246223
hlpugh@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Cabinet
3RD October 2022

SUBJECT
Cost of Living

Background

The Welsh Government announced a package of measures to help people with support towards the cost of living. The package includes £152M to provide a £150 cost-of-living payment to eligible households (the main scheme) and £25M to provide discretionary support for other purposes related to living costs.

The schemes are intended to provide immediate support as Wales recovers from the pandemic and support households to deal with the impact of increasing energy and other costs

The Discretionary Scheme funding can be used by each local authority to support households it considers to be in need of assistance with their living costs. Carmarthenshire has been allocated £1.556 million to spend on a discretionary scheme.

Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the delivery of the Cost-of-Living Support Scheme (main scheme).
- To approve the categories summarised within the report as the approach for Carmarthenshire locally determined Discretionary Scheme
- To agree that the final initiative in Table 12 is not processed until after the mandatory scheme has closed at the end of September 2022 so that the actual financial position can be established, to ensure that sufficient funds are available to deliver the initiative.
- To approve delegated authority to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member of Resources, to determine if Table 12 Initiative proceeds subject to sufficient funds available from the mandatory scheme underspend to fund the proposal.
- Delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources), the ability to vire any underspent elements of funding either from the main scheme or between discretionary options agreed as necessary, to ensure full spend of the Council's allocated funding

It is to be noted that papers have already been approved by Cabinet Members for the use of WG poverty grants and Allotment Grant, and this scheme dovetails into those schemes. Please see attached copy of the cabinet report which has been approved for Poverty: [Summary.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=384&MId=6134&Ver=4We) and link to the relevant agenda <https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=384&MId=6134&Ver=4We>

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Helen Pugh**

Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
None	None	Yes	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

3. Finance

Welsh Government Grant allocated to spend on the scheme totalling £1.556m.

Appropriate recording and monitoring of spend to evidence through regular returns to Welsh Government that the grant has been spent in accordance with the Discretionary Scheme.

5. Risk Management Issues

Risk that support is not provided to the financially vulnerable of Carmarthenshire

Risk that monies could be clawed back if the monies have not been spent in accordance with the approved scheme.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Helen Pugh

Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**
YES

Cllr Alun Lenny

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
-------------------	--------------	---