

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	5 March 2024
Decision Maker	Mark Fitton Strategic Director for People
Brief Description Of Decision	To modify the delivery plan of the Household Support Fund 2023/24 to redirect funds from the energy support scheme and uncommitted voucher funds to food provision.
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>Following on from the Cabinet decision in March 2023 confirming the delivery plan for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund 2023/2024, ongoing budget and contract monitoring has identified that the original allocation for a scheme to support eligible households with energy bills, debts and new heating systems was not spending to profile as anticipated. The provider (Act on Energy) has indicated that it would not be able to spend or commit the full allocation to identified households before the end of the financial year (the end of the HSF programme), as the number of eligible applications</p> <p>To ensure the council complies with the HSF grant requirements, all funding needs to be spent within the financial year. Therefore, after consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities and the Chief Finance Officer, it is proposed to reallocate the remaining funds from the Act on Energy scheme which totals £420k to free school meal vouchers in the Easter holidays for just under 16,000 eligible children. A small amount of funds from uncommitted voucher schemes will also provide additional budget required to meet the full costs of the vouchers over Easter and additional funds to district councils (£10k each) to support local food provision, which will total £500k.</p> <p>The district councils and key HSF delivery partners have identified that food provision would be their priority for any unallocated funds for the remainder of the HSF scheme.</p>
Alternative Options Considered And Rejected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not make any changes to the HSF scheme this would mean that all funds would not be spent or committed to identified eligible households within the grant period and therefore would mean the council has not met the DWP grant conditions and the

