

**Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Report of: Corporate Director - Finance and Resources**

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**Subject: USE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR'S URGENCY POWERS**

**1. Recommendation**

- 1.1 To note the use of urgency powers to agree to participate in the Worcestershire business Rates Pool for 2023/24 only;**
- 1.2 To delegate to the Corporate Director – Finance and Resources authority to finalise the arrangements for the pool in consultation with the Chair and the Vice-chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee;**
- 1.3 To note the use of urgency powers to implement a scheme for additional financial support for Ukrainian refugees; and**
- 1.4 To note the use of urgency powers to allocate Household Support Grant funding for the period October 2022 to March 2023.**

**2. Worcestershire Business rates pool 2023/24**

- 2.1 At its meeting of December 2021, the Committee approved a proposal to form a business rates pool consisting of all local councils in Worcestershire, and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority for the year 2022/23.
- 2.2 The final outturn for the 2021/22 financial year is still subject to audit but estimates indicate that the pool has been beneficial in retaining £5.031m in the local area, which provides an additional benefit to Worcester of £346,157. The draft report of the final position for the pool for 2021/22 is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 For 2022/23 each participating council needs to determine whether it wishes to continue in the pool for a further year. It is anticipated that this will be on the basis of 50% growth retention, as in 2023/24. The government has indicated that it has no plans to introduce a 75% or 100% retention scheme, as discussed in previous years.
- 2.4 For 2019/20, Herefordshire Council joined the pool but withdrew in the following year. The Council has proposed rejoining the pool on the basis of a 60:40 split of the levy distribution for the first year to cover the impact of participating, reverting to the 50:50 arrangement in future years. At a meeting of the Hereford and Worcestershire Treasurers Association on 9 September 2022, this proposal was considered and approved on the basis that it would result in an increase in the amount of levy retained locally. This is because Herefordshire, Like Worcestershire County Council is a top-up authority (i.e. receives less business rates income than the Government states that it requires).

- 2.5 Assessment by consultants, Local Government Futures, showed that, based on current estimates for 2023/24 business rates income, the expected amount retained in the local area rather than being paid to Government is £4.4m for the existing pool. If Herefordshire is added, this increases to £5.9m. Of this, Worcester would receive an additional £52k in that year, rising to £131k in future years based on current estimates.
- 2.6 The deadline for confirming arrangements for 2023/24 was 22 September 2022. This pre-dated the Policy and Resources Committee on 15 November, the first available meeting that could approve the proposals. Under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers an urgent decision can be made in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair of the relevant committee, subject to a report to the next meeting of that committee. The proposal was discussed at the Leaders/CLT Group meeting on 5 September. Urgency powers were used to enable a formal commitment and to delegate responsibility to officers to finalise the agreement in discussion with other participating councils. The Committee is asked to note the use of these powers.

#### Further information

- 2.7 The benefits of being in a business rates pool are that:
- Growth income which would otherwise be paid to DLUHC through a levy is retained locally because of the operation of the system of tariffs and top-ups that apply in two-tier areas.
  - Pool membership also allows for a degree of risk sharing between Pool members. The Worcestershire pool members have previously established a 'risk reserve' to mitigate the impact of reductions in business rates on any of the constituent members, although this was redistributed on the dissolution of the pool that existed to 31 March 2019. There is no intention to create a risk reserve for 2023/24 as the pool is for one year only. However, a 'no detriment' clause has been retained which guarantees that no council will be worse off within the pool than it would have been outside it.
  - A degree of county-wide economic planning can be achieved by reaching joint agreements about the use of any retained levy which can be combined and directed towards mutually agreed priorities.
- 2.8 The full governance arrangements for the pool are set out for information at **Appendix 2.**

#### Sharing of surplus and risk management

- 2.9 The major risk in relation to business rates is volatility. In the event that major ratepayers appeal successfully against their rates bills or premises become vacant, for example, the reduction in rates will have a significant direct impact on the local authority and its preceptors. Provisions for appeals are included in estimates of income from business rates to mitigate the first of these risks.
- 2.10 Participating in a pool helps to mitigate the second risk in general through the operation of safety nets but a specific risk reserve can be used so that the collective income into the pool can offset the losses of any individual organisation.

- 2.11 As with the previous years, the principle that the participating authorities are adhering to is that no organisation will be better or worse off than they would have been if outside the pool. This means that no risk reserve will be established for the purposes of a one-year arrangement, although the operation of the pool itself will result in some level of risk sharing. The arrangements are on the basis set in previous years that the pool:
- (i) Shares the gains 40 County Council (s) and FRA: 60 Districts
  - (ii) Does not use a risk reserve
  - (iii) Firstly spreads the pooling gains to cover any losses within individual authorities
  - (iv) Scales all members' funding if there is a loss by the same percentage (i.e. so that all members incur the loss and not just those above the safety net).
- 2.12 DLUHC have also confirmed that a 28-day cooling off period will apply for 2023/24, which would mean if an event were to trigger an overall loss between now and 28 days after the provisional settlement (so mid-January) the pool could be stopped and losses avoided. It should be noted that this 28-day period does not allow individual authorities to withdraw but only for the application to pool to be cancelled and no pool to be formed.
- 2.13 It is estimated that there needs to be a 19.1% average reduction in business rates across the participating organisations to result in the pool not providing a local benefit. Each participating council does, however, need to make its own arrangements for mitigating risk. Worcester City Council currently has £1.523m held in a Business Rates Risk reserve to help mitigate the impact of any unexpected reductions in business rates income. This is 10% of total business rates income and represents only one year's growth over and above the baseline funding level – the amount that the system allows the Council to retain.

### **3. Discretionary financial support for Ukrainian Refugees**

- 3.1 The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched by Government on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and allowed people in the UK to sponsor Ukrainian households to live in the UK providing that they had suitable accommodation to offer. Sponsor households were requested to make a minimum commitment to host households for 6 months, for up to 12 months and in return would receive £350 per month as a 'thank you' payment.
- 3.2 As part of the scheme, the government announced that Local Authorities would receive £10,500 per individual in order to provide support and resettlement in line with previous (Syrian & Afghan) resettlement schemes. A key difference between this and previous resettlement schemes is there being no limit on numbers and the new, temporary hosting arrangement. The Government has not provided any indication of next steps, whether the scheme is due to be extended or what additional financial or other support will be available.
- 3.3 In Worcestershire, the scheme has been coordinated by the County Council, with each District leading the operational delivery, including: Home Checks to assess suitability of accommodation; the administration and dissemination of guests' £200 'welcome' payment and sponsor thank you payments; safeguarding visits; and ongoing resettlement support.

- 3.4 As of 21 November, 153 guests had arrived in Worcester since the scheme began, with a total of 121 still residing in the city. The remaining 32 individuals have left the city, many of whom have moved to larger cities in the UK and 12 having returned to Ukraine. There are currently 99 Guests from 50 family units being hosted across Worcester in sponsor households.
- 3.5 In addition, 11 guests across 5 households have moved into independent private rented accommodation and a further 11 guests from 5 households are currently in temporary accommodation provided by the Local Authority under our statutory homelessness duty.
- 3.6 A further 20 guests are listed to arrive. However, we are seeking clarity over their circumstances and whether and when they are due to come to Worcester.
- 3.7 For each guest on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, funding of £10,500 is being awarded from government with an agreement in the County for this being apportioned with 70% allocated to Districts (£7,350) and 30% retained by County. This is in addition to the monthly £350 thank you payments.
- 3.8 Should Worcester receive the full District allowance for each guest who has arrived in the city (including those who have subsequently left), this would equate to a total of £1,124,550. Clarification is being sought by County around arrangements to redistribute funding where guests may move between Local Authorities. Should funding be attributed only to the 121 guests currently residing in the City, this would equate to a total of £889,350.

#### Agreed Option

- 3.9 On 16 November, a paper was taken by County to Leaders Board which included consideration of the attribution of additional funding beyond the Government's £350 pcm 'thank you' payment to host households. This 'top up' payment is intended to further incentivise host households to continue to support Ukrainian guests beyond the 6 months' initial commitment to alleviate the likelihood of the guests requiring temporary accommodation or needing to seek alternative accommodation.
- 3.10 The approach to 'top up' payments differs nationally and across the County. Each District proposed different approaches. The Leaders paper proposed a 'One Worcestershire' approach which involved a flat payment of £250 pcm for host households for months 7-12. This was approved and means that sponsors who continue to host a Ukrainian household beyond 6 months would receive a total of £600 pcm. The additional £250 pcm would be funded from the District allocation.
- 3.11 Should each of the current 50 host households maintain their hosting arrangements for the additional 6 months, the cost would be £75,000, though we will be working to support guest households to move on to their own accommodation during this time.
- 3.12 Although Leaders Board agreed a 'One Worcestershire' approach. Further proposals recommended by Worcester City Council included the following to be approved.

Host Winter payment	Available to all host households to mitigate the impact of rising energy costs.	£200 per host (total 50) at £50 pcm for 4 months	£10,000
Guest Christmas payment	To contribute towards the cost of Christmas.	£50 per guest	£6,050
Rent in advance and deposit for private rented accommodation	To support guests to move into private rented accommodation. It is proposed to pay for 1 month's rent; however, this is open to discretion based on individual circumstances.	£1,500 for 60 households	£90,000
Personalisation/resettlement costs	To support guests in setting up a new tenancy with essential provisions. This will be attributed on a sliding scale based on household size.	Approximately £1,000 for 60 households	£60,000

3.13 Further to the above proposals, additional costs have been forecast including staffing costs, community engagement events, temporary accommodation costs and English/Wellbeing courses.

3.14 It was resolved to proceed with the agreed approach, with the additions for Worcester City Council as outlined above. As this consensus was developed in advance of the timeline for publication of Committee papers, it was determined to use Managing Director's urgency powers, subject to agreement with the Chair and Voce Chair of Communities Committee, to achieve agreement and report to the next Policy & Resources Committee.

#### Alternative Options Considered

3.15 To only provide the 'One Worcestershire' proposal for extra payments to hosts and not to provide winter payments. Although this proposal is being recommended, it does not provide any additional financial support to those households who have not had a guest for beyond the initial 6-month period. Due to the increased pressures on households from rising energy costs, it is considered a suitable mitigation and incentive to support hosts to maintain accommodating guests rather than facing the difficult choice of ending the host arrangements.

#### Funding

3.16 The funding for the Homes for Ukraine scheme is allocated to Upper Tier authorities, paid in arrears. Worcestershire County Council has been verbally informed and is

awaiting written confirmation, that government will now not be seeking to claw back any funding at the end of the 12 months as previously indicated.

- 3.17 To ensure that all services to the guests and hosts are maintained it is recommended that the agreed split in funding of 70:30 (70% to the districts) is maintained which was approved by Leaders Board on 16 November 2022.
- 3.18 There are sufficient funds within the allocation to cover the costs of the schemes outlined above with no impact on existing revenue budgets.

#### **4. Household Support Fund allocations**

- 4.1 On 30 September 2022, the Government announced that a new Household Support Fund (HSF) grant will be made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need with the rising cost of living. £3.95m has been allocated to Worcestershire. This new grant will run from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 4.2 The new guidance removes ringfences for dedicated cohorts but widens the scope in terms of resident groups to target resources towards, and gives a higher prominence to energy issues in the types of support provided.
- 4.3 The following proposals have been developed through workshops between County and District Council leads and the key local delivery partners such, Citizens Advice, Age UK's and Act on Energy

**Table 1: Allocation breakdown of Household Support Fund**

<b>Total Grant</b>	£3,949,139.19	To be spent by 31st March 2023
<b>Commitments</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Food	£990,000.00	Free School Meals vouchers for holidays (15442x3x21 days) =£973k. Numbers may be higher as May audit data latest available. All holidays to be covered in this HSF period.
Energy	£1,562,185.50	Extend Act on Energy scheme, home visits and minor measures through Age UK H+W and W+M, one off payment to park home residents (£100), one off payment application scheme for those with oil fuel (£100), warm boxes or free minor measures for vulnerable residents
Food/Energy	£359,500.00	Extend pensioner post office voucher scheme, including carers, disability, medical device usage, shared lives one off payment. £75 payment or £150 if two or more criteria met. Care leavers winter payment £75.

Districts	£899,139.18	Proposals to be provided to WCC by mid-November
Admin/contingency	£138,314.51	TBC once above are finalised.

**Table 2: District council allocations based on previous scheme calculations**

District	Allocation £
Bromsgrove	100,344
Malvern Hills	89,105
Redditch	146,200
Worcester	189,089
Wychavon	167,060
Wyre Forest	207,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>899,139</b>

- 4.4 The objective of The Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.
- 4.5 Although this is considered an extension to the previous two Household Support Fund schemes, it is a new grant subject to its own grant conditions as is set out in the Grant Determination letter. Any underspends from the previous schemes cannot be carried forward.
- 4.6 Funds should be spent or committed before 31 March 2023 and cannot be carried over for future usage. All Authorities are encouraged to ensure, wherever possible, that any vouchers issued are redeemed before the end of the Funding Period, or shortly thereafter, or consider recycling unused vouchers. However, it is acceptable for vouchers that have been purchased and delivered to households before the end of the Funding Period to be spent shortly thereafter.
- 4.7 When administering the fund, authorities are encouraged to adopt the following principles:
- use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need, taking into account a wide range of information
  - use the funding from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials. Authorities can also use the funding to support households who are struggling to afford wider essentials
  - in exceptional cases of genuine emergency, the funding can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need

- work together with councils and third parties including, where necessary and appropriate, other local services. This may include social workers, housing and family support services and may incorporate intelligence and data from wider children's social care systems to help identify and support individuals, families and households within the scope of the fund.

#### 4.8 Eligible spend includes the following:

- Energy and water. The fund should primarily be used to support energy bills for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking, or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders. It can also be used to support water bills including for drinking, washing, cooking, as well as for sanitary purposes and sewerage.
- Food. The fund can be used to provide support with food, whether in kind or through vouchers or cash.
- Essentials linked to energy and water. The fund can be used to provide support with essentials linked to energy and water (for example period products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, the purchase of equipment such as fridges, freezers, ovens, slow cookers), in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access energy, food and water. In particular, Authorities are encouraged to consider supporting households on low incomes to repair or replace white goods and appliances with more energy efficient ones, or to invest in simple energy efficiency measures which will pay back quickly, such as insulating a hot water tank, fitting draft excluders to a front door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The intention of this is to provide sustainable support which could result in both immediate and long-lasting savings for the household.
- Wider essentials. The fund can be used to support wider essential needs not linked to energy and water should Authorities consider this appropriate in their area. These may include, but are not limited to, support with other bills including broadband or phone bills, clothing, and essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle, or paying for fuel. This list is not exhaustive.
- Housing costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need, the fund can be used to support housing costs. Where eligible, ongoing housing support for rent must be provided through the Housing cost element of Universal Credit (UC) and Housing Benefit (HB) rather than the fund. In addition, eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) must first be considered before emergency housing support is offered through the fund. The Authority must also first consider whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG). The following extra guidance is provided:
  - In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, households in receipt of HB, UC, or DHPs can still receive housing cost support through the fund if it is deemed necessary by their Authority. However, the fund should not be used to provide housing support on an ongoing basis or to support unsustainable tenancies.



- Individuals in receipt of some other form of housing support could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund, such as food, energy, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials.
- The fund cannot be used to provide mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund (such as energy, food, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.
- The fund can exceptionally and in genuine emergency be used to provide support for historic rent arrears built up prior to an existing benefit claim for households already in receipt of UC and HB. This is because these arrears are excluded from the criteria for DHPs. However, support with rent arrears is not the primary intent of the fund and should not be the focus of spend.
- Reasonable administrative costs. This includes reasonable costs incurred administering The Fund. These include for example:
  - staff costs
  - advertising and publicity to raise awareness of The Fund
  - web page design
  - printing application forms
  - small IT changes, for example, to facilitate MI productions

#### 4.9 Eligible spend does not include:

- advice services including debt advice
- mortgage costs.

#### Preferred Option

#### 4.10 It is proposed to utilise the funding to deliver on the following priorities of Worcester City Council's Community Recovery Strategy:

- Housing & Homelessness
- Financial Hardship

#### 4.11 Officers recommend distributing the funding through established schemes and services which support low-income vulnerable households.

#### 4.12 The City Council has led multi-agency collaboration and information sharing through various forums and conferences including Worcester City District Collaborative and Cost of Living Conferences. These sessions have initiated a number of incentives like directories of services, networking and promotion of support schemes. The council has also funded supermarket vouchers for pre-school children and college students suffering hardship during term breaks. Further ideas and opportunities arising from case studies and customer experiences have contributed to the following proposal:

Free school Meals for Nursery children and sixth-form students

#### 4.13 During the summer, the Council provided Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers to fill gaps in provision by the County Council. At its meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the Policy & Resources Committee approved a proposal to continue this provision for the

Christmas and half-term holidays (through to March 2023) and delegated £107,500 from the Hardship Fund to support this to the Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities. Since then the further Household Support Fund was announced and the funding made available to support free schools meals. However, the County Council proposals will not include provision for nursery children and sixth-form students who require this support. It is therefore proposed that **£25,000** is allocated from the Household Support Fund to provide vouchers for these groups.

#### Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme

- 4.14 The City Council runs a Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme (DWAS) which is intended to assist vulnerable low-income Worcester households in crisis who need assistance with the cost of food, energy or white goods. Demand for this service via referral agencies has increased. It is anticipated that this demand will continue to rise with the cost-of-living crisis. However, the eligibility criteria and goods available through the existing scheme mean that it would not be possible to distribute the hardship funding in the timescales required. Changes to the eligibility criteria and assistance available is therefore proposed. It is proposed that **£50,000** is allocated to temporarily improve the service offer in the following ways until the funding is exhausted
- Extend the provision of washing machines and fridge freezers to single and couple household types (currently only available to families). This would enable low-income households to budget more effectively by enabling them to purchase and store higher volumes of food and to not have to rely on expensive laundrettes.
  - Widen the scheme eligibility criteria to include working households in receipt of Universal Credit (currently only non-working UC claimants are eligible). This will enable the scheme to assist a greater number of low-income households who are facing increasing financial pressure due to the rising cost of living.
  - Increase the number of food and energy voucher claims which can be made by the same household from 2 to 4 per rolling 12 months. The value of the energy voucher has been increased from £20 to £49. Again, this will assist low-income households who are impacted by the rising cost of living with essential food and energy costs.
  - To continue to provide "other essential supplies" (to be awarded through the provision of vouchers for relevant retailers) to include energy saving purchases like air fryers, slow cookers, boiler insulation, draft excluders, led bulbs and electric blankets to meet the specific needs of individual households.

#### Worcester Foodbank

- 4.15 Worcester Foodbank at 7 Lowesmoor Wharf, opened in June 2012 to provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. Part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, they are working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. The Foodbank provides the following services to residents referred to them by Citizens Advice:
- Food Donations
  - Travel Vouchers

- Care packages of essential items such as toiletries and school uniforms

4.16 Public donations contribute to the majority of the food in the Foodbank. However, with current demand they need to top up donations by 8 tonnes a month, this equates to £12,000. A financial donation of **£50,000** will allow the Foodbank to bulk purchase food and essentials items from October 2022 to March 2023.

#### Spend to Save

4.17 The Strategic Housing Service has a Spend to Save budget which is used to prevent and relieve homelessness in households who have a financial barrier to accessing or maintaining appropriate accommodation. Assistance can be provided in the form of cash deposits to private landlords (where they will not accept the Council's deposit bond), payment of former tenancy arrears, or other financial assistance necessary to avoid or reduce time spent in temporary accommodation. Assistance is currently provided in the form of a loan, which recipient households repay at an affordable rate, thereby recycling the budget to assist other households in the future.

4.18 The rising costs of living are putting greater financial pressures on many people and it is likely that there will be an increase in the number of households at risk of homelessness as a result of being unable to afford their housing costs through no fault of their own. The scale of this is not currently known. However, an increasing number of individuals are approaching for general advice and assistance as well as advising that their housing costs are becoming unaffordable. It is proposed that **£30,000** is used to clear or reduce the rent or other housing-related arrears of households financially at risk of homelessness as a result. It is proposed that this assistance be in the form of a grant rather than a loan, paid direct to the landlord. It is proposed that this provision is extended to cover rent where households are unable to pay utility bills or sudden utility costs that put them at risk of homelessness

#### Multi-agency Crisis Fund

4.19 At Worcester City District Collaborative it was suggested that residents would benefit from a crisis fund that would provide emergency or immediate support when waiting for responses to request from help through referrals. A funding pot of **£25,000** is proposed which would be available for frontline services such as Onside Advocacy, Worcester Community Trust, Age UK Worcester and District, Action for Children, Maggs Day Centre etc to use. The organisation would need to agree to only allocate funds or make purchases against a list of options for residents who meet criteria in keeping with the household support fund and agree to pay upfront, claiming back the payment from the council by completing a web-form.

#### Administration of Crisis Fund

4.20 The multi-agency Crisis Fund will require Worcester City Council or a third-party organisation to set up a procedure and employ staff to administer the claims and payments. It is suggested that the administration of the DWAS should be increased to support this fund, with estimated costs of **£5,000**. Alternatively, this £5,000 could be granted to a third party organisation to administer the fund or to cover additional pressure on advice networks.

## Marketing and promotion of support

- 4.21 At recent cost of living conferences hosted by Worcester City Council, it was identified that there is no co-ordinated promotion of all the services and charities providing for Worcester residents. Targeted advertising at demographics who care, or know friends and families entitled to support will enable more residents to access existing support. **£4,089** will be allocated for targeted multi-media paid promotion.

### Alternative Options Considered

- 4.22 To put all of the funding into a grant for the voluntary sector to apply. This would enable local services to deliver more for the community. However, the Council would be reliant on receiving enough quality applications that meet the criteria, to allocate the total amount of funding. Also, the Council may not receive bids covering a wide enough range of people in hardship, excluding some from receiving the support they need.
- 4.23 Rent rebate and support to social housing tenants with children and social housing tenants over 66 years old. It was considered, however, that social housing tenants have greater levels of support and access to financial support than other tenures.

### Funding

- 4.24 The Household Support Fund is for local authorities in England to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials. Worcester City Council has been allocated £189,089. The Government anticipates that the funding will be spent or committed by 31st March 2023. A summary of the proposals is set out in Table 3.

**Table 3: Summary of proposed allocation of funding**

Area of spend	Description	Allocation (£)
Free School Meals	To provide vouchers for children and young people otherwise not included in the County Council scheme	25,000
Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme (DWAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Single household offer</li><li>- Low income working UC households</li><li>- Increase number of food and energy voucher awards</li><li>- Increase in value of energy voucher awards</li><li>- Other Essential Supplies and energy saving measures.</li></ul>	50,000
Worcester Foodbank	Provide food, clothing and travel vouchers.	50,000

Spend to Save	Grants instead of loans for affected residents and deposit for homeless residents. To include over 65s and to cover rent where utility bills put households at risk of homelessness.	30,000
Multi-agency crisis fund	Cash/ purchase/ voucher scheme for charities and services to reclaim the costs of providing emergency support to residents who need support whilst awaiting referral decisions or appointments with support services.	25,000
Administration of crisis fund	Either £5,000 on DWAS Or Admin cost for advice networks and additional admin of crisis pot.	5,000
Marketing and promotion	Targeted advertising at demographics who care, or know friends and families entitled to support. Enabling more residents to access existing support	4,089
<b>Total</b>		<b>£189,089</b>

4.25 To expedite this process and enable the funding to be defrayed in full within the required timetable, the Managing Director's urgency powers were used to proceed with allocating the funding as set out within this report, in agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Committee. The outcomes will be reported to the Health & Wellbeing Committee at a subsequent meeting.

**Ward(s):** All wards  
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