

Notice of an Executive decision under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

The Cabinet will be asked to consider and determine the following matter, which is a key decision, on 3 November 2021

Household Support Fund

The item seeks approval to:

1. Use the Household Support Fund to provide financial support to those Sandwell residents who are most in need this winter.
2. To provide support to families who receive free school meals with food vouchers during the school holidays in October, December 2021, February and April 2022 at a cost of £ 1.67 million, providing additional support for around 18,700 households.
3. To provide £123,000 to food banks to purchase food and other essential items and to include the setting up of 3 new food pantries.
4. The criteria to be considered for a Household Support Fund payment award to be as detailed in paragraph 2.7 of the Household Support Fund report and to seek approval for the Household Support Fund Policy 2021-22.

The Regulations require that 28 clear days' notice is given before a key decision is made. However, this was impracticable because of a late announcement of the Household Support Fund by the Government. The Fund was first announced on 30 September 2021, however, the guidance on how the Fund could be spent was only issued in early October.

Due to this, and in accordance with the Regulations, the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board has been informed of this matter in writing.

28 October 2021

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Governance

Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, Sandwell, West Midlands B69 3DE