

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I097053
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1. **TITLE:** Covid Winter Grant

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

Approval of the eligibility framework and approach for distribution of the Covid Winter Grant. The Covid Winter Grant is a Government support package aiming to give vulnerable households peace of mind in the run up to Christmas and over the Winter months during the pandemic by helping those who need it to have food on the table and other essentials, with the aim of ensuring every child will be warm and well-fed this winter.

Special urgency procedure decision in order to launch this Covid response scheme as soon as possible following 1st December in line with Government guidance.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive Member for Council Strategy and Community Cohesion

6. **DECISION:**

- i. That the proposed local arrangements for distribution of the Winter Grant Scheme set out in this report is approved and to commence after the decision, from the 7 December 2020.
- ii. That further changes to the eligibility criteria and changes to the spending of the funding between the different categories is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

1. The government has announced a specific support package to give vulnerable households peace of mind in the run up to Christmas and over the Winter months during the pandemic by helping those who need it to have food on the table and other essentials, so every child will be warm and well-fed this winter. Local authorities have been allocated a fund, based on population size and deprivation, to distribute to families in financial hardship. Bracknell Forest Council has been allocated £221,214.27.
2. Local authorities are responsible and have been given significant discretion for setting up the support and determining eligibility. The main restrictions are that at least 80% of the fund must be distributed to families with children, and at least 80% must be provided for food costs and essential heating and utility bills. Any funding not spent by the 31st March 2021 must be returned to the Department for Work and Pensions. Local authorities are required to launch their schemes on 1st December or as soon as possible after that date.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No alternative options considered as local authorities are expected to disburse this funding following Government guidance.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** The Executive
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny
Commission
BF schools

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:**

11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Date decision will be implemented
07 December 2020	07 December 2020