

## Delegated Decision Making by Lead Cabinet Member

### Decision to be taken by County Councillor: Stephen Davies - Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years

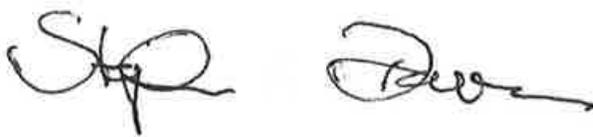
#### Household Support Fund (HSF) Grant - 6th October 2021 to 31st March 2022

Earliest decision date	26 November 2021
Conflict of interest declared by any councillor or consultee and any Audit and Governance Committee dispensation	None
Summary of any representations received before decision taken and how they have been taken onto account	N/A
	<p>In coming to this decision I have given due and full regard to the requirements of the public sector equality duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") by reference to the law itself and also the relevant Equality Impact Assessment, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>Having fully considered all of the available information, I have decided to reject the alternative options and take the recommended decision to:</p> <p>Ratify the following decisions by the Executive Director of Children's Services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A decision to distribute Household Support Funding (HSF) received by the council from the Department of Work and Pensions for the purpose of supporting those most in need during the period 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.</li><li>2. A decision to award to the council's incumbent</li></ol>

welfare support services supplier, without further competition, a contract for the provision of administration services in respect of such funding and also delivering support in the form of food vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods and emergency household items to those most in need during the period 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Such direct contract award is made on grounds that, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by unforeseeable events (that is, the unforeseeability of a notification from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 requiring the council to ensure that the above-mentioned services were operational as soon as possible), the time limits for completing a regulated procurement procedure could not be complied with, hence the council's incumbent supplier of welfare support services, namely, Auriga Services Limited, was the only supplier capable of implementing the required services in the available timeframe

Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to:

3. Conduct a competitive procurement process in respect of a single provider Framework Agreement for the supply of food vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods and household emergency support to those most in need as required under the terms of the Household Support Fund Grant provided by the Department for Work and Pensions in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and for any other future COVID grants received from Government in relation to emergency welfare provision. Such Framework Agreement shall continue for an initial period of 15 months commencing early in 2022 and include an option to extend its term for a further period of 12 months.
4. Award such Framework Agreement to the preferred tenderer.
5. To call-off such services from the proposed Framework Agreement as are deemed necessary in order to implement the terms of the Household Support Fund Grant

<p>Signature of County Councillor</p>	<p>6. Determine whether to exercise the option to extend the term of such Framework Agreement for a further period of 12 months on the expiry of its initial period.</p> <p>7. Approve £0.654m spend for the purpose of providing financial support to vulnerable individuals and families in Gloucestershire who require rent and/or utility support.</p> <p>8. Allocate £123k to each of the six District Councils in Gloucestershire (namely, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Cotswolds) for the purpose of them each providing their own localised schemes to target the needs of those most vulnerable (whilst meeting the grant conditions that at least 50% of the funding allocated, is provided to families with children and primarily used to provide support with food, energy and water bills, household items &amp; other essential items).</p> <p>For the reasons set out in the report.</p>  <p>.....</p>
<p>Date of decision</p>	<p>26.11.2021</p>