



Officer Decision Record

1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision)

Voucher provision for families in receipt of Free School Meals. On 4th November 2020 Cabinet approved financial support in the form of a £10 voucher for all young people in receipt of free school meals. Cabinet further authorised the Director for Children and Family Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People and the Director of Resources and Governance to explore and implement any further support packages throughout the current academic year.

A further package has been implemented for the Christmas school holiday period.

2. Is it a Key Decision as defined in the Constitution?

Yes, affects all wards

3. Details of Decision

In response to the Covid pandemic, Government has issued the Council with a winter support grant. The grant has certain conditions which includes provision of support to low-income families specific requirement to meet food and fuel needs.

In order to support these families over the Christmas period, a decision has been made to provide families who have young people in receipt of Free School Meals with a £30 supermarket voucher.

Schools have been given the option to purchase the vouchers directly and invoice the Council to reimburse the funds, or for the Council to purchase vouchers on their behalf.

The vouchers purchased by the Council are for Aldi Stores Ltd. This supermarket has been chosen because the vouchers can be limited to exclude alcohol, tobacco and lottery purchases, and because Aldi supermarket locations are generally accessible to most locations throughout the borough (in Immingham, Grimsby and Cleethorpe Road).

4. Is it an Urgent Decision? If yes, specify the reasons for urgency Urgent decisions will require sign off by the relevant scrutiny chair(s) as not subject to call in.

No

5. Anticipated outcome(s)

To support vulnerable families within the terms of the grant.

6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision

Cash awards discounted due to risks relating to administration and distribution.

No provision discounted due to reputational issue and government requirement to provide support via the winter support grant.

The level of award is in line with other authorities locally.

7. Background documents considered

N/A

8. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons

No

9. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)

N/A

10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer)

The above decision is consistent with the delegations made by Cabinet enabling further support packages to be explored and implemented.

11. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)

The cost of the vouchers is anticipated to be fully funded through Government grant.

12. Human Resource Comments (Strategic Workforce Lead or nominee)

There are no direct HR implications

13. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)

N/A

14. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Joanne Hewson

Title: Deputy Chief Executive and
Executive Director for People, Health
and Care

Signed: REDACTED

Dated:26.01.21

**15. Consultation carried out with
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr I Lindley

Title: Portfolio Holder for Children,
Education and Young People

Signed: REDACTED

Dated:26.01.21

**16. If the decision is urgent then
consultation should be carried out
with the relevant Scrutiny
Chair/Mayor/Deputy Mayor**

Name: N/A

Title: N/A

Signed: N/A

Dated: N/A