COUNCIL – 14 NOVEMBER 2023

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR A MORLEY TO COUNCILLOR N RUSHTON

Household Support Fund extension 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

"On 17 November 2022, as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, the government announced an additional £1 billion of funding to help households with the cost of essentials. In England a further £842 million is being provided to extend the Household Support Fund by a further 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The additional funding will be used by local authorities to support vulnerable households.

How has this funding been allocated in North West Leicestershire?"

REPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR N RUSHTON TO COUNCILLOR A MORLEY

"The purpose of this grant is to provide support to households, who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs, to help them with significantly rising living costs. The grant of £842m will be paid to upper tier and unitary authorities.

Leicestershire County Council (LCC) were allocated a sum of £7.240m for the 2023-24 financial year. The grant allocation is based on an authorities' share of low-income households, which can be used to support those most in need within the scope of the grant determination.

As a lower tier authority, NWL has not received a grant allocation.

The local authorities who have received the grant funding are expected to work with delivery partners such as district councils, charitable or third-party organisations, to ensure that the fund reaches those who need it most.

LCC stipulated that it would not accept direct applications from residents, they must come from a professional support worker or agency. This included referrals from district and borough councils.

During the period 1 April 2023 – 8 November 2023, the Council has made 1,119 referrals. The costs of administering these referrals have been met from existing NWL budgets, despite a request to LCC utilise the grant funding to support administration costs."