

Report of the Chief Executive**COVID WINTER GRANT****1. Purpose of report**

To advise the committee of the extra financial support which has been provided for families and individuals by way of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

2. Detail

On 8 November 2020, the government announced a package of extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period. The £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, available from December 2020, will see new funding issued to County Councils and Unitary Authorities to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs. Nottinghamshire County Council's allocation is £2,316,000.

The objective of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme is to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable

At least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support households with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other households experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty during the pandemic. This may include households not currently in receipt of DWP welfare benefits but can also include those not claiming benefits but are struggling financially because of Covid-19.

In Nottinghamshire, the support to families is to be administered by the County Council. The support for utility bills is to be administered by the Nottingham Energy Partnership. Distribution of the 20% for individuals in need is to be administered by the lower tier authorities, with Broxtowe's share being £37,400.

Families without children who qualify will be entitled to supermarket vouchers of £30. In Broxtowe, the issue of vouchers will be undertaken by the foodbanks and CAB. Some vouchers will be retained in case needed by asylum seekers and / or homeless individuals.

Further details of the scheme and the criteria set by Nottinghamshire County Council are included in the appendix.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report

Background papers

Nil