



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI393883271

Thank you for your request for information relating to Council measures to help residents with the cost of living.

You have requested the following information:

How much the Council is spending in this financial year on all measures, financial support and poverty prevention programmes that the Council has in place to help residents deal with the rising cost of living.

This includes, but is not limited to, applications made to the UK Government's Household Support Fund, the Council's use of Discretionary Housing Payments, donations made to local food banks and all local welfare provisions, assistance schemes or hardship funds that the Council has set-up.

Discretionary Housing Payments

We confirm this year's budget from the Department of Working Pensions (DWP) is a total of £1,032,130. To date, we have spent a total of £1,034,548.68 and our forecast expenditure for the full financial year is £1,032,130.

Community Support Grants

This budget is fully funded by the Council to support people with costs of essential white goods and furniture when moving into new tenancies. We confirm this year's budget is a total of £495,423 and we have spent a total of £424,109.32. Our forecast expenditure for the full financial year is £525,087.

Local Support Grant

The Local Support Grant ran from 14th April – 30th September 2021 where the total expenditure was £1,520,720.13.

Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund runs from 6th October 2021 to 31st March 2022, whereby the budget allocations are:

- Household essential items (i.e. cookers, fridges, freezers etc.) - £25,000
- Food support in partnership with the Coventry Food Network - £332,000
- Fuel support through the provision of Paypoint vouchers - £193,000
- Warm clothing/blankets - £10,000
- Free school meals and Early Years support - £1,575,000
- Housing Support - £55,000
- Other household essentials (i.e. carpets etc.) - £7,000
- Administration costs for the scheme - £100,000
- Community Support Grant scheme support - £200,000

Housing

Our Housing and Homelessness team use part of the Homelessness Prevention Grant (which included an exceptional winter top-up for 2021/22) to support people by providing funding which will prevent or relieve homelessness. We confirm this has a forecast expenditure of £350,000 for this financial year.

The Homelessness Prevention Grant was allocated to Local Authorities by the Ministry of Housing. Further information on this is accessible via the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-prevention-grant-2021-to-2022>

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance