

Appendix 3

National government support

- 1.1 National government made several funds available to local authorities to provide targeted support for the most vulnerable residents. These include:
- 1.2 Household Support Fund (HSF). Dorset Council has now received three rounds each of £2.29 million. This fund has enabled Dorset Council to support low-income families with free school meals vouchers during school holidays, additional funding for food security projects, supermarket vouchers distributed by Citizens Advice and other support. We are expecting detail of Round 4 HSF allocations to be available in April 2023. **Appendix 5** reports on the full programme of how Dorset Council distributed the funding for Round 3 Household Support Fund.
- 1.3 An additional £143,000 has been made available to support Dorset Council's housing teams to support the expected winter surge in homelessness enquiries including cover support for the front door triage service, staff training, support for those in Bed & Breakfasts and Temporary Accommodation and to overcome the barriers to moving back into settled accommodation. For example, helping with benefits, debt management, bidding for housing and looking for private rented.
- 1.4 For the financial year 2023- 2024 Dorset Council has additional funds of £591,000 in respect of a Council Tax Support Fund. The majority of their funding allocations will be used to reduce bills for current working age and pension age Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) claimants through both a main and discretionary scheme. This means that eligible residents will benefit from this additional financial support reducing some charge payers contributions down to £0.00. Applications will not be required for the main phase and details on supporting discretionary schemes will be published during 23/24.
- 1.5 DC has submitted a c.£4million bid to the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) fund for FYs23/24 and 24/25, which, if successful, will enable upgrades to heating and insulation in the homes of residents on limited incomes off the gas network, where fuel costs are typically higher. This will reduce fuel bills, alleviate fuel poverty, and contribute to CO2 reduction goals.