



## Household Support Fund (1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023)

The Household Support Fund was a £500m grant administered by the Department for Work and Pensions and allocated to top tier local authorities to support vulnerable households with the cost of living. This was a similar fund to the previous Household Support Fund that had been offered, although it was not an extension of previous grants.

The allocation to Leicestershire County Council was £3,620,038.89. All of the ringfences of previous rounds were removed and local authorities were able to spend the funding in locally-appropriate ways that met the criteria of the fund. All of the money was spent by 31 March 2023. Further information on the fund is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils>.

### Overall financial spend

The sum of £3,957,923.89 was spent on the Household Support Fund, broken down as follows:

- Free School Meals (schools and early year providers): £1,874,915 (68,411 awards)
- Food vouchers: £855,578 (8,791 awards)
- Fuel vouchers: £771,093 (8,456 awards)
- Third Party Organisation spend: £236,000
  - Food: £141,143 (13,311 awards)
  - Fuel: £7,629 (197 awards)
  - Essentials linked to energy: £65,282 (840 awards)
  - Wider essentials: £21,946 (122 awards)
- Costs of administering the scheme: £220,337.89

### Detail of activities undertaken

- Free School Meals – vouchers for food were issued to children eligible for free school meals in schools and early years settings. £15 vouchers per week of the holidays were made available and were issued by the school or early years provider. £15 was available in October and February Half Terms, £40 for two weeks of support in the Christmas holidays and £35 for two weeks of support at Easter. 68,411 awards were made in total (62,127 in Apr-Sep 2022).
- Food and fuel vouchers – vouchers for food and for credit towards pre-payment or credit meters were issued to people who were referred to LCC by third party organisations. Referrals for support with food and fuel vouchers came to the Council from local district councils, schools, faith-based organisations and charities. Trusted professionals could put forward clients for support from the HSF. Referrals were administered by First Contact+ within the Council's Public Health Department, enabling officers to ascertain if the household in question was in need of any additional support or referral into other Council services, such as the Warm Homes Service. This pot was significantly increased from previous rounds with £1.5m being allocated at the start of the scheme. Eventually we spent £1,626,671, with the overspend being managed through unspent and reallocated vouchers from previous rounds. The level of support varied according to how many people were within the household, as dictated by the HSF policy. 8,791 food vouchers were awarded and

8,456 fuel vouchers. (3,282 awards of food vouchers were made and 3,137 awards of fuel vouchers in Apr-Sep 2022).

- Third party organisation spend included local foodbanks, which were helped with the purchase of food, and the Leicestershire and Rutland Re-use Network and Charity Link which were assisted with the purchase of energy efficient white goods and furniture to help households in need.

### Geographical distribution of awards

The spread of support through the food and fuel vouchers scheme was as follows:

#### Food

<b>District</b>	<b>Spend (£)</b>	<b>No of vouchers</b>
Blaby	£65,130	611
Charnwood	£167,930	1,559
Harborough	£74,800	344
Hinckley and Bosworth	£71,066	729
Melton	£141,120	1482
North West Leicestershire	£176,076	1,799
Oadby and Wigston	£56,506	542

#### Fuel

<b>District</b>	<b>Spend (£)</b>	<b>No of vouchers</b>
Blaby	£57,796	594
Charnwood	£141,475	1,476
Harborough	£66,280	687
Hinckley and Bosworth	£64,996	695
Melton	£138,066	1,452
North West Leicestershire	£160,468	1,737
Oadby and Wigston	£48,323	523