

Appendix II - Cost of Living Funding Matrix

Name of Fund	Short description	Target beneficiaries	Funding available for residents/ households	Allocated Budget 2022 - 2023	Remaining Budget	Allocated Budget 2023 - 2024	Remaining Budget	Time Frame	Source of Funding	Further Comments	Links to further information
<b>Household Support Fund</b>	Funding to support residents of Merton during the cost of living crisis (includes funding for free school holiday food vouchers)	Residents who receive Council Tax Support or free school meals, or are struggling with the cost of living. General objective to support all low-income households plus additional focus on specific target groups to ensure the widest range of help has been available to residents at different times.	CTS recipients - automatic £60 Post Office Payout voucher. Automatic Discretionary fund administered by Wimbledon Guild - application based on self-referral. Variable amounts.	CTS - £654k; Discretionary Fund WG = £100k	CTS - £80k (estimated underspend figure. Vouchers able to be redeemed up to 8th March); FSM £0; WG - £20k	Info to follow	Info to follow	Current grant (tranche 3) is for 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.	Government Initiative		<a href="#">Link to Gov Website</a>
<b>Council Tax Support Fund</b>	Up to £25 reduction on annual CTax bill for all recipients of CTS as at 1st April 2023. Remaining funds to be used for discretionary scheme to assist residents to pay their Council Tax	Residents on Council Tax Support	Up to £25 from Government main scheme plus £30 from the discretionary scheme	None - starts 1st April 23	Not applicable	£266684. Estimated -£80k on mandatory main scheme. £186k for discretionary scheme	Not applicable	Main scheme awarded at main billing on 1st April 2023	Government Initiative		
<b>Energy Bill Support Scheme</b>	£400 reduction on gas/electricity bills delivered by utility providers over a period of 6months	All households with a domestic electricity connection in England, Scotland and Wales are eligible for the discount.	£400 in total	None - Paid by Government via reduction on fuel bills	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Winter 2022 - 2023	Government Initiative		

<p><b>Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS AF)</b></p>	<p>Fund targeted at households that missed out on the £400 energy bills discount scheme</p>	<p>Households England, Scotland and Wales that do not have a direct contractual relationship to a domestic energy supplier.</p>	<p>£400 in total</p>	<p>None - Paid by Government but scheme details not by Government yet</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Info to follow</p>	<p>Government Initiative</p>	<p>Online applications will open in January for households in England, Scotland and Wales who are eligible for the £400 EBSS Alternative Funding to submit their details, alongside a helpline for those without online access. Payments to households that meet the eligibility criteria – including people who get their energy through a commercial contract or who are off-grid – will be made by local authorities in Great Britain.</p>	<p><a href="#">Link to press release</a></p>
<p><b>Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) scheme</b></p>	<p>Fund directed to those households that heat their homes using alternative energy sources, such as oil, coal, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or biomass rather than gas or electricity. Also directed to businesses not using alternative energy sources.</p>	<p>Available to homes and businesses who aren't using use mains gas for heating.</p>	<p>£200 in total for homes and £150 in total for businesses</p>	<p>None - paid by Government</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Government Initiative</p>	<p>Most households eligible for the AFP support in Great Britain, will receive payment automatically via their electricity supplier in February, with no need to take any action. Those households who will need to apply for the AFP, for example because they do not have a relationship with an electricity supplier, will be able to do so in February, through the same GOV.UK portal as the one that will be used to apply for support under the EBSS Alternative Funding scheme.</p>	<p><a href="#">Link to press release</a></p>

<b>Cost of Living Payment</b>	Paid as a top up to certain DWP benefits.		Up to £900 for people on an eligible low income benefit £300 for pensioner households £150 for people on an eligible disability benefit	None - paid by Government	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Government Initiative		<a href="#">Link to Gov Website</a>
<b>Winter Fuel Payment</b>	Paid in addition to SRP	Born before 26 September 1956	between £250 and £600	None - paid by Government	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Both winter 2022 to 2023 and winter 2023 to 2024	Government Initiative			<a href="#">Link to Gov Website</a>
<b>Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)</b>	Paid to resident who apply for help to top up the HB or UC housing cost element	Residents who currently get either housing benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit and need more financial support with housing costs	Dependent on circumstances. Cannot pay more than eligible rent costs.	£421,909 provided by DWP. Option to top this up by 2.5 x this amount from Merton's own funds	DWP funded spent. Overspend by £26k. Projected overspend £40k for 22-23	Not known - DWP funding not announced yet	N/A	Re-applications every April. New awards throughout the year	DWP funded but option to top up from Council Funds	Never over spent on this fund before. £40k overspend need to be funded from other sources		<a href="#">Link to Gov website</a>
<b>Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS)</b>	The LWSS exists to support Merton residents with short term severe financial difficulties or require essential household items when resettled into permanent accommodation by Merton.	Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) may be able to help vulnerable households in the London Borough of Merton if they are at risk to their health or safety or need help to re-settle or remain in the borough.	Dependent on circumstances.	£40K	<£1k	£40k	Info to follow	Annual budget applied	Government plus local funding	Offer is similar to Wimbledon Guild but staff have access to DWP databases to verify claims and provide wider support with DWP benefit claims etc.		<a href="#">Local Welfare Support Scheme   Merton Council</a>
<b>Holiday activities and food clubs (HAF) programme</b>	Provision of fun activities and nutritious meals for Merton primary and secondary school children	Free of charge for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Some also offer paid-for places for other children and young people.	Info to follow	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Government Initiative		<a href="#">Holiday activities and food clubs   Merton Council</a>

<p><b>Community Fridge Network (Local)</b></p>	<p>Public Health have provided short-term funding to the organisations in the Community Fridge Network to support food provision in the borough.</p>	<p>Residents of the London Borough of Merton who are in need of food provision support</p>	<p>None - funding goes to organisations</p>	<p>November 2022 - June 2023 = £50k</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>November 2022 - June 2023</p>	<p>Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)</p>	<p>Public Health used the COMF (national COVID-19 funding) to help support the community fridge network. However, COMF funding is no longer continuing</p>	
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