



<b>Report To:</b>	Russell Stone, Executive Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer)
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Crisis and Resilience Fund
<b>Purpose:</b>	To accept the funding allocation from Lincolnshire County Council as part of the Department for Work and Pension's Crisis and Resilience Fund to deliver the scheme at a local level.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder – Finance & Economic Growth; and Councillor Helen Staples, Portfolio Holder – Communities
<b>Report Of:</b>	Emily Spicer, Service Director – Communities and Housing Services
<b>Report Author:</b>	Roxanne Warrick, Healthy Communities Group Manager
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

### Summary

In June 2025, the Government announced a new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs).

The new scheme covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 and represents a shift from short term emergency help towards a more preventative, needs based approach, which builds financial resilience and enables individuals to better manage future financial crisis, while still providing a safety net to support low-income households who encounter an unexpected financial shock.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has provided funding to county councils and unitary authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to administer the Crisis and Resilience Fund. Authorities have discretion on how this funding is used within the scope set out in the guidance and grant determination, across four primary stands of the fund

- **Crisis Payments:** *Providing support to those in crisis*
- **Housing Payments:** *Providing financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs*
- **Resilience Services:** *Funding for services delivered by Authorities or external providers to improve financial resilience*
- **Community Co-ordination:** *Investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape*

The guidance sets up the objectives, framework and a requirement to work collaboratively with district councils and third sector partners to successfully meet the policy intent of the scheme.

An allocation of £9.9 million has been made available to Lincolnshire County Council to be utilised between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027. Following the formal decision-making process, an initial allocation of £4.5 million (45%) for crisis payments and £3.2 million (20%) for resilience services has been made available to Lincolnshire's seven District Councils.

**This report outlines the Lincolnshire scheme and approval to accept the local funding allocation to deliver the Crisis and Resilience Fund scheme in Boston.**

## Recommendations

1. To accept the funding allocation from Lincolnshire County Council as part of the Department for Work and Pension's Crisis and Resilience Fund 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 to facilitate delivery of the scheme at a local level. **This is an indicative total of £649,484 for Boston;** and
2. To give delegated authority to the Housing and Communities Service Director, following consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to implement and deliver the scheme at a local level in accordance with the CRF Collaboration Agreement.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- Accepting access to this local allocation of Government funding will ensure the Council can support both low-income households who encounter a financial shock and activity that builds individual and community financial resilience.
- The local delivery of the Crisis and Resilience Fund scheme builds on successful delivery of the Household Support Fund partnership approach. Boston Borough Council is well placed to deliver CRF locally due to existing links with community, housing and homeless service and established relationships with the local voluntary, community & faith sector partners.

## Other Options Considered

- Do nothing and decline the grant. The grant is paid in arrears and there is no requirement to draw down the funding.
- To not utilise the funding would be detrimental to households at a time when many continue to experience financial pressures and is not considered an option.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 In June 2025 the Government announced that the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) would replace both the Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. This ringfenced fund is to be administered by County Council /Unitary Authorities, with a provisional allocation for Lincolnshire of £9.9m per year in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028, rising to £11m in 2028/2029 when Housing Payments become fully integrated.
- 1.2 On 15 January 2026, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published the framework and guidance that Authorities need to work within and set out the expectations for collaboration between County Councils and District Councils along with voluntary and community sector organisations. Authorities have discretion on exactly how the funding is used within the scope of the guidance and Grant Determination Letter but must submit a delivery plan setting out the approach.
- 1.3 The primary objective of the CRF is to provide a safety net for people on low incomes who encounter a financial shock - such as sudden income loss or unexpected expenses, and to invest in building financial resilience, enabling people to better deal with crises in the long-term, reducing the need for crisis support. The funding is intended to support a range of people and is not restricted to those in receipt of benefit entitlements.

## 2. Crisis and Resilience Fund Objectives and Outcomes

- 2.1 The primary objective of The Fund is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term, reducing crisis need.
- 2.2 Authorities are encouraged to invest in 'Resilience Services' that contribute towards improving the financial resilience of individuals. The purpose of building financial resilience is to enable individuals to better manage future financial shocks and reduce the need for crisis support.
- 2.3 The fund has three main outcomes:
  - **Outcome 1:** Provision of effective crisis support
  - **Outcome 2:** Improving individuals' financial resilience
  - **Outcome 3:** Bolstering the local-level support landscape

### 3. Lincolnshire delivery of the Crisis and Resilience Fund

- 3.1. Building on the successful delivery of Household Support Fund, the established partnership approach will transition into the Lincolnshire Crisis and Resilience Fund. Representatives from all Lincolnshire authorities and Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership have worked together to shape the proposals.
- 3.2. Local delivery provides a combination of proactive, application based and community-based support for residents across the county. These varied delivery routes enable vulnerable households to be supported whilst providing flexibility to meet specific needs of communities.
- 3.3. Following formal decision-making process, Lincolnshire County Council have confirmed the allocation of 2026/7 funding:
- **£4.5 million (45%) for Crisis Payments** to be made available to the seven District Councils to provide application-based schemes. Schemes are to be as consistent as possible across Lincolnshire, with Districts retaining local discretion where a household's needs and circumstance do not meet the agreed criteria.
  - **£3.2 million (32%) for Resilience Services** allocated across countywide commissioned services with **£2 million (20%)** to be made available to the seven District Councils to continue or develop local, community-based resilience services and support.
  - **£297,000 (3%) has been allocated to Community Co-ordination** which includes resource for Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership, micro-grants scheme and financial resilience training.
  - **£2.0 million (20%) will be 'retained'** for allocation across other strands as required and to cover increased costs in future years.
- 3.4. The funding made available to District Councils has been allocated on the same basis as Household Support Fund (weighted by population and deprivation)

#### Crisis Payments

	% of district allocation	Allocation
Boston	10	£446,490
East Lindsey	24	£1,071,576
Lincoln	16	£714,384
South Holland	12	£535,788
South Kesteven	14	£625,086
North Kesteven	11	£491,139
West Lindsey	13	£580,437

#### Resilience Services

	% of district allocation	Allocation
Boston	10	£202,994
East Lindsey	24	£487,186
Lincoln	16	£324,790
South Holland	12	£243,593
South Kesteven	14	£284,192
North Kesteven	11	£223,293
West Lindsey	13	£263,892

- 3.5. To support delivery, Districts Councils may use a portion of their allocations to support associated costs with delivering the fund.
- 3.6. District Councils will provide monthly expenditure to LCC who will reimburse for actual expenditure incurred.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1. Accepting the funding allocation will enable the Council to continue supporting vulnerable households, reduce the escalation of need and contribute to strategic objectives to enable healthy and resilient communities.

#### **Implications for South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership**

Whilst funding will be allocated to each sovereign council and dispersed to households in need within that district, a single policy and scheme has developed across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) to provide administrative efficiency and consistency.

#### **Corporate Priorities**

The following Corporate Priorities are supported through local delivery of the Crisis and Resilience Fund:

Boston Borough Council – ‘Priority 1 - People Focused’

South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership – ‘Healthy Lives’

#### **Staffing**

This external grant funding can be used to cover all staffing and associated administrative costs to support efficient and effective distribution of funds.

#### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

A programme manager has been recruited to develop and deliver this scheme across South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. The new role will sit as part of the Healthy Communities Team.

#### **Constitutional and Legal Implications**

Legal and governance implications are currently under review by Lincolnshire County Council and the District Councils as part of the preparatory work being undertaken, utilising the framework and guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The CRF is a government funded scheme and must be administered in accordance with grant conditions and guidance with funding lawfully applied for its intended purpose.

Legal Services Lincolnshire have prepared a Partnership Collaboration Agreement between Lincolnshire County Council and District Councils that sets out the terms and conditions governing each Parties’ respective roles and responsibilities in connection with delivery of the CRF.

The s151 Officer has delegated powers to accept grant funding where there is no impact on the Council's budget to facilitate its delivery.

### **Data Protection**

All personal data will be administered following data protection legislation.

### **Financial**

There is no impact on the Council's budget; the scheme is fully externally funded by DWP via LCC. All staffing and administrative costs to deliver this scheme must be taken from local allocation.

Crisis & Resilience Fund is ringfenced and will LCC will reimburse District Council expenditure incurred in-line with guidance and grant determination.

### **Risk Management**

By accepting the local grant allocations, the delivery of the local scheme can commence. This will ensure the funding can be made available to vulnerable households most in need with the cost of essentials without delay whilst mitigating against the risk of not drawing down funding made available to Lincolnshire.

### **Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales**

Portfolio holders with responsibility for Health & Wellbeing, Communities and Partnerships have been briefed on the delivery of the Lincolnshire scheme.

Key stakeholders including local charities, food banks and internal services supporting vulnerable residents have been consulted as part of the development of this scheme

### **Reputation**

Through delivering the local Crisis and Resilience Fund scheme the Council maintains its reputation of community leadership, helping vulnerable residents in hardship and delivering trusted welfare support.

### **Contracts**

All appropriate procurement exemption notices and grant agreements have been applied in line with the sovereign Council's individual constitutions.

### **Crime and Disorder**

It is in the report authors opinion that there are no crime and disorder implications associated with accepting this grant funding.

### **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding**

The scheme is being developed with regard to the legislative duties of Equality Act 2010. Grants will be available to all residents regardless of their age, disability, gender, marital status, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken by LCC, with support from District Councils and will be reviewed and updated as the delivery plan develops.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

The Crisis and Resilience Fund will be available to help residents with poor physical or mental health. Support with household essentials will alleviate poor health related financial stress and fuel poverty.

## **Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment**

None undertaken - it is in the report authors opinion that there are no climate change and environmental implications associated with accepting this grant funding.

## **Acronyms**

CRF – Crisis and Resilience Fund  
HSF – Household Support Fund  
DWP – The Department for Work and Pensions  
LCC – Lincolnshire County Council  
SELCP – South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

## **Appendices**

None

## **Chronological History of this report**

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

## **Background Papers**

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

***Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for Local Authorities (1 April 2026 – 31 March 2029)***

**[Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England \(1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029\) - GOV.UK](#)**

***Lincolnshire County Council Executive Decision (3 March 2026)***

**<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s72334/7.1%20Crisis%20and%20Resilience%20Fund.pdf>**

***Lincolnshire County Council letter outlining countywide delivery of Crisis and Resilience Fund and Districts funding allocation (23 April 2025)***



CRF Letter to Chief  
Executives - 23.04.26

## Report Approval

Report author: Roxanne Warrick, Healthy Communities Group Manager  
[roxanne.warrick@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:roxanne.warrick@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Signed off by: Emily Spicer, Service Director – Communities and Housing Services  
[emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk)

Approved for publication: Emily Spicer, Service Director – Communities and Housing Services  
[emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk)