



# COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

## *Cost of Living Crisis:*

Supporting  
those most in  
need in county  
areas



**CCN**

COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK



**COUNTIES**

LEADING RECOVERY  
DELIVERING RENEWAL

# About COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

At the County Councils Network (CCN) one of our core objectives as a national representative body is to share the innovative work our councils are doing on a daily basis to provide vital frontline services, support local economies, and create thriving communities.

This new, regular, publication seeks to shine the spotlight on the most recent best practice and innovative solutions being put forward by our member councils across a range of different policy areas. Alongside this, it provides an update on the national policy landscape and commentary from our lead members and strategic partners.

**To find out more about future themes, or to recommend a case study, please contact [ian.burbidge@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.burbidge@local.gov.uk).**

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# THE VIEW FROM CCN

The cost of living crisis has become the dominant issue facing many households across the country this year. Unfortunately, we know that things are likely to get worse in the second half of the year with inflation set to rise even further, the energy price cap being lifted higher, and fuel costs showing no signs of abating.

We can see the strain being placed on families and individuals through the number of people approaching their local authorities for assistance, and county authorities are stepping up to provide support, signposting, and targeting help to those most in need.

Building on our work during the pandemic where County Councils Network (CCN) member councils balanced the local with the strategic, we are our best to alleviate pressures.

The most visible aspect of this support is the Household Support Fund, with successive rounds of this grant distributed to upper-tier councils in England. County councils and unitary councils have worked quickly to channel this funding to specific people or organisations, tailored to local need. In my own county of Derbyshire we have seen a significant increase in the number of people applying for this support and many counties have gone further, boosting their allocations with their own funding as we have done in Derbyshire with our discretionary crisis fund.

This *County Spotlight* also showcases the innovative work from CCN members in supporting their communities through rising costs, such as freezing public transport or adult education costs, buying up property to increase affordable housing stock, or setting up bespoke support hubs where people can get a range of advice from financial to mental health.

Whilst councils are doing their utmost, we also recognise that we do not hold all the answers and navigating the present crisis will be complex, with strong partnership working between the public sector, the government, and the private sector necessary.

We know that the crisis is going to continue for the foreseeable future, and this could potentially have a long-term impact on our communities through more people becoming eligible for council tax support, more demand on 'front door' council services, and more usage of food banks. CCN will continue to make the case for more financial support for county communities as the crisis continues, and to that argue counties are the most effective distributors of the Household Support Grant.

On a more local level, I know that colleagues across the country will continue their hard work in supporting those most in need, distributing support quickly, and coming up with innovative solutions to specific local challenges.

**Cllr Barry Lewis**

*CCN Vice-Chair and Leader of Derbyshire County Council*



# THE LATEST POLICY LANDSCAPE

It was during the pandemic that many of the financial challenges facing households began to come to the fore, with the economic downturn and rise in unemployment during 2020 and 2021 impacting on individuals and families across the country.

In county areas alone, the number of people claiming Universal Credit more than doubled during the first year of the pandemic, peaking at 1.9m in March 2021. Those unemployed grew from a pre-pandemic low of 348,000 to 775,000 over the same period.

Data published by Sheffield University during the pandemic showed 4% of households in CCN member councils' areas - an estimated 450,000 - were experiencing hunger, having been forced to skip or shrink meals, with a further 9.6% households - 1.1m - experiencing food insecurity.

Following on from the economic shocks of the pandemic, households are now grappling with the cost of living crisis. As we begun 2022 the inflation rate stood at 5.5% - a high number by recent historical standards. But since then it has almost doubled, with the most recent data showing that inflation in England now stands at 9.1% (May 2022), fuelled by global and regional increases in prices of food, fuel, energy, and consumer goods.

Despite the re-opening of the economy, the economic hardship that became more widespread during Covid-19 continues in county areas as a result of the cost of living crisis. Latest data shows the number of people claiming Universal Credit remains significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels. Some 1.8m individuals were claiming this benefit in CCN areas in May 2022, compared to 940,000 in March 2020. The number of people unemployed in county areas remains 25% higher than pre-pandemic levels. In addition, the numbers claiming council tax support has increased 3.5% and those homeless and in temporary accommodation has risen 5.3% in county areas.

During the height of the pandemic, CCN member councils stepped up to help protect the most vulnerable. Their role evolved as the pandemic did: with councils setting up shielding arrangements and networks to deliver food, parcels, and medicines to those most at risk from the virus in the first months of 2020. This progressed towards more targeted support to families experiencing economic hardship, where they distributed government grant funding in the form of the Covid Support Grant to individuals, households, and community groups in most need.

Using the Covid Support Grant, county authorities began to put in place substantive arrangements to support individuals, including rolling out food or supermarket vouchers for eligible people during the school holidays, setting up welfare and financial assistance hubs, and offering funds for energy bills during winter.

This experience of effectively distributing this funding, and the arrangements put in place to protect and support individuals in most need, stood local government in good stead once the present cost of living crisis began to take hold in England.

Many of the measures aimed at easing the burden on stretched household finances will be decided on by the government, and the Treasury in particular, but CCN member councils will have a vital role in helping their communities through the present crisis.

With costs rising in 2022, councils say they are receiving a lot more ‘front door’ requests for support from people anxious about their finances and those who need welfare support.

Last Autumn, the government announced a Household Support Grant, which was doubled in England to £842m in the Spring Statement this March. This fund was in effect an extension of the Covid Support Grant and was distributed to upper-tier authorities in two-tier areas and unitary authorities, with some discretion on how councils spend it.

As this *County Spotlight* publication shows, CCN member councils have used this funding effectively to target support, working in strong collaboration with district council and public sector partners. They have been able to combine the local with the strategic – devising schemes that are not only able to be rolled out across large county areas but are able to quickly reach those that need help the most, right down to the neighbourhood level.

As with the Covid Support Grant, the innovative examples in this document showcase why the government was justified in distributing this funding to upper-tier authorities, who are able to impact people at a local level whilst using their size and scale to effectively create comprehensive pan-county schemes.

With most analysts predicting that the present crisis will get worse before it gets better, CCN will likely be calling for further tranches of this Household Support Grant later this year to enable its member councils to support more people who will be requiring support as costs continue to rise.

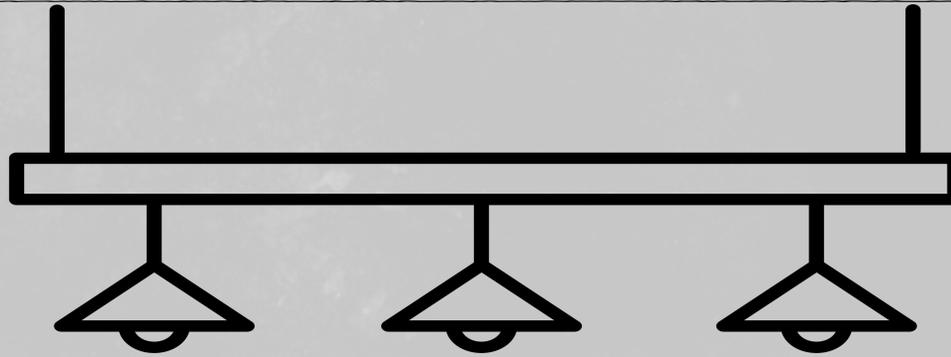
County authorities’ frontline services also continue to play a vital role in helping those most in need through the present crisis. Local authorities have a variety of levers to pull through their core services, while their economic interventions and capital investments are crucial to supporting recovery and employment. But this publication shows how they are going further and investing in community groups’ capacity, utilising data and technology to identify those most in need, and freezing adult education and public transport fares to help tackle the cost of living crisis.

However, many feel they could play a much more active role if they had more powers and responsibilities to utilise, especially in economic growth, housing, transport, and skills. This is why it is vital that the first round of county devolution deals should be concluded as soon as possible, with the government then moving immediately onto the next tranche of deals.

Counties can only do as much as their funding envelope dictates, too. New CCN research shows that county authorities face £1.5bn in inflationary costs – at least – this year, which will impact on our ability to continue the same level of service in some areas going forward, as well as delivering vital construction projects designed to stimulate local growth.

**As we move forward into the second half of 2022, CCN will be monitoring the situation for its member councils, with further injections of support for both individuals and local authorities likely to be necessary in the Autumn Budget.**

# THE COUNTY CONTEXT



County households experiencing hunger



450k households in counties

County households experiencing food insecurity



1.1m households in counties

County households worried about food insecurity



1.14m households in counties

% of Household Support Fund distributed to counties



£325m in county areas

Individuals claiming universal credit in counties

March 2020

940,268

< VS >

May 2022

1,761,818

Number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in counties

March 2020

348,295

< VS >

May 2022

434,745

Number of local council tax support claimants in counties

Q3 2019/20

1,445,657

< VS >

Q3 2021/22

1,496,003

Households in temporary accommodation in counties

Q3 2019/20

8,508

< VS >

Q3 2021/22

8,959

# HELPING HANDS: SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH RISING FOOD AND ENERGY COSTS

The past two years of a global pandemic placed significant strains on household budgets across the country; issues that have been exacerbated by England's economic downturn and the war in Ukraine. Inflation has risen to its highest level in 30 years, with energy, food, and product prices increasing exponentially.

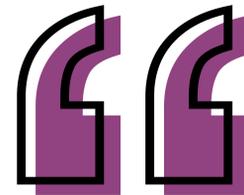
Whilst getting people through this present crisis will require several different solutions, and the government, public sector, and private sector all working in tandem, councils have been doing their best to alleviate pressures locally.

The government's Household Support Grant was distributed to upper-tier authorities during the height of the pandemic, and has since been renewed in 2022 to target support at households and individuals struggling with rising costs. As before, government has chosen county and unitary authorities to distribute this funding, and has given them discretion on how this fund is allocated locally.

CCN member councils have used their experience of tailoring and targeting these funds to those most at need to support those at the sharp end of the cost of living crisis. Many have effectively and quickly distributed food vouchers to residents, using data insights and collaborating closely with partners. Others have used the fund to bolster community support, as well as focus help towards elderly people at the risk of fuel poverty.

They have been able to balance the strategic with the local - devising large-scale support packages and then targeting these at the individuals and families who need help the most. This includes distributing millions in grant funding and providing thousands of vouchers and payments.

**CCN councils have also gone further than this - with many boosting their Household Support Grant with their own funding to ensure that the help on offer is as comprehensive as possible.**



CCN member councils have been able to balance the strategic with the local - devising large-scale support packages and then targeting these at those who need help the most





# Household Support Fund

How counties are targeting support to those in need during the cost of living crisis

## Support for people in need the most

- Millions distributed in food and fuel vouchers
- Direct payments to local schools, colleges, and early years providers.
- Freezing adult education and transport prices

## Targeting aid to vulnerable people

- Funding support for care leavers, such as vouchers, and targeting money to those with disabilities and special needs
- Targeted funds to children in care and young carers

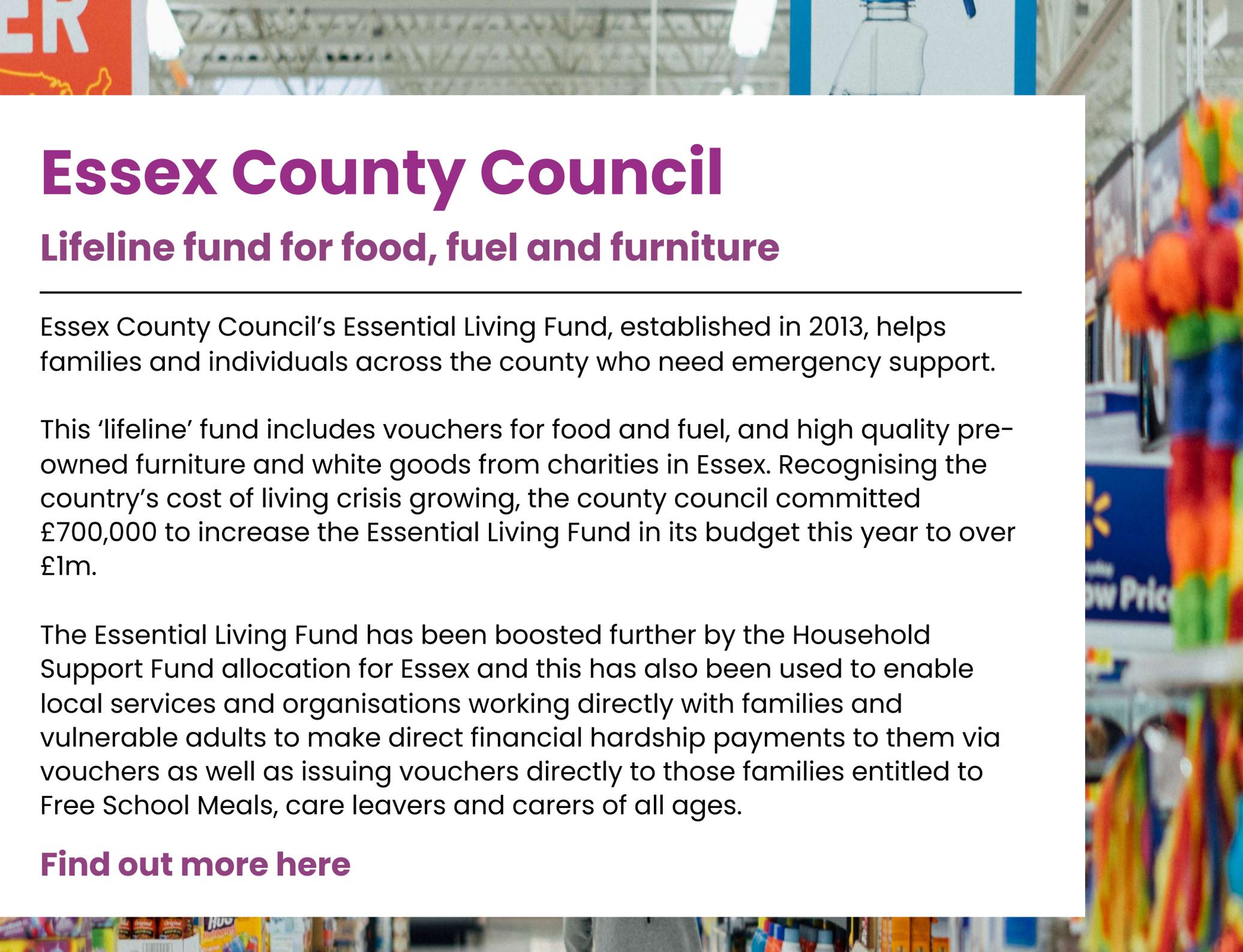
## Helping low-income families

- Vouchers for gas electric bills, direct to families
- Providing slow cookers, white goods, and electrical equipment
- Free books and activity packs for households

## Strengthening the community sector

- Grant funding for food banks and community pantries
- Funding to domestic abuse charities
- Financial support to voluntary groups and Citizens Advice Bureaus





# Essex County Council

## Lifeline fund for food, fuel and furniture

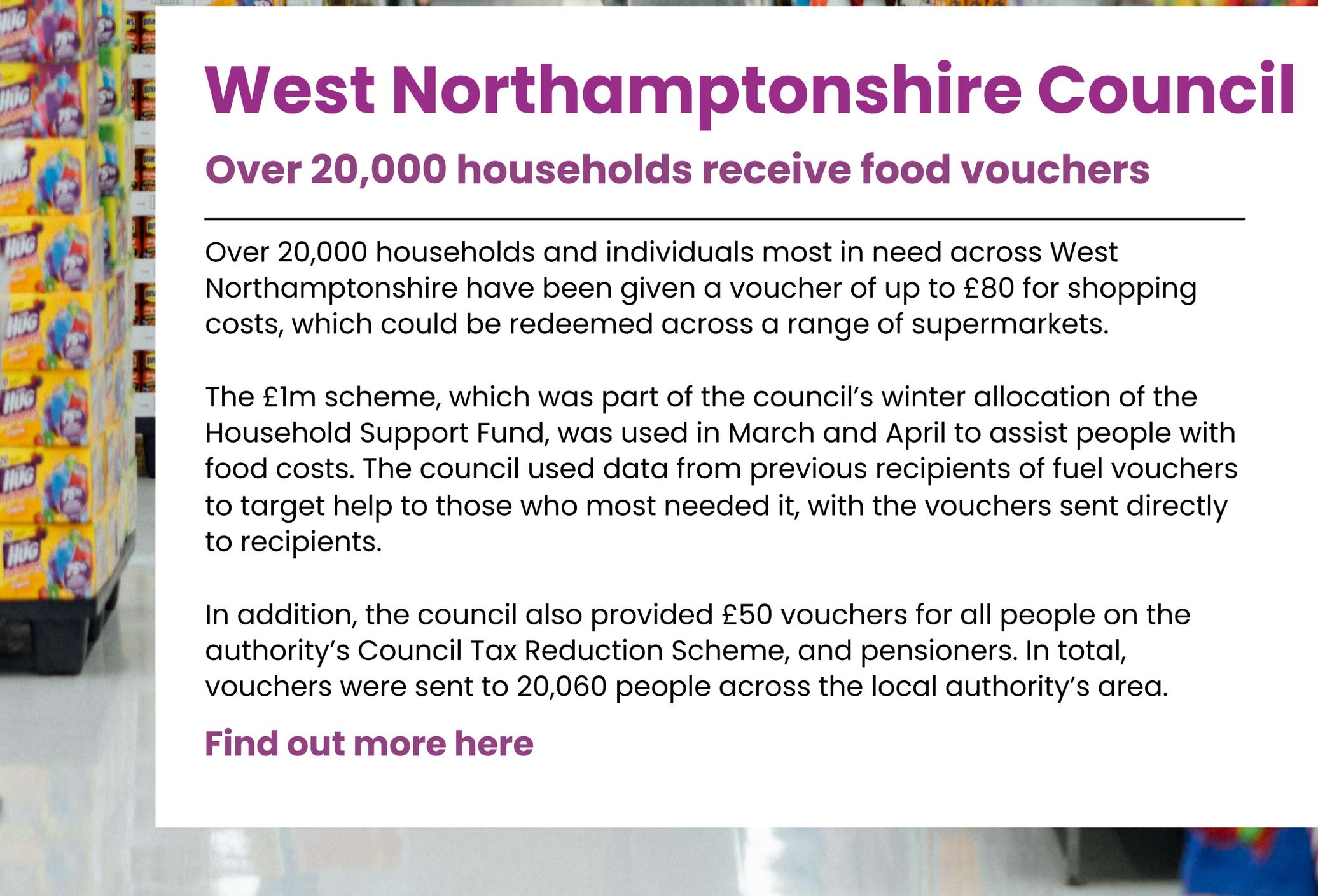
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Essex County Council's Essential Living Fund, established in 2013, helps families and individuals across the county who need emergency support.

This 'lifeline' fund includes vouchers for food and fuel, and high quality pre-owned furniture and white goods from charities in Essex. Recognising the country's cost of living crisis growing, the county council committed £700,000 to increase the Essential Living Fund in its budget this year to over £1m.

The Essential Living Fund has been boosted further by the Household Support Fund allocation for Essex and this has also been used to enable local services and organisations working directly with families and vulnerable adults to make direct financial hardship payments to them via vouchers as well as issuing vouchers directly to those families entitled to Free School Meals, care leavers and carers of all ages.

[Find out more here](#)



# West Northamptonshire Council

## Over 20,000 households receive food vouchers

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Over 20,000 households and individuals most in need across West Northamptonshire have been given a voucher of up to £80 for shopping costs, which could be redeemed across a range of supermarkets.

The £1m scheme, which was part of the council's winter allocation of the Household Support Fund, was used in March and April to assist people with food costs. The council used data from previous recipients of fuel vouchers to target help to those who most needed it, with the vouchers sent directly to recipients.

In addition, the council also provided £50 vouchers for all people on the authority's Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and pensioners. In total, vouchers were sent to 20,060 people across the local authority's area.

[Find out more here](#)

# Cambridgeshire County Council

## Council funds food vouchers until February 2023

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Over 20,000 supermarket vouchers have been sent to families struggling with the cost of living crisis in Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council agreed to finance the vouchers until the February 2023 half-term, meaning families across the county will receive a £15 voucher each half term for the next eight months.

For the May half term, a total of 21,322 vouchers were sent automatically to families, with the hard work of council officers ensuring that they were sent to those eligible by the start of the half term.

The council is also partnering with Age UK to provide financial support for those of state pension age who are in financial need – which also includes wider help such as access to benefits and moving energy supplier.

[Find out more here](#)

# Norfolk County Council

## Hardship support for the most vulnerable

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Norfolk County Council last month unveiled a £7.7m package of hardship support for families, elderly individuals, and those at risk of homelessness.

The Cost of Living Support Scheme is comprised of £6.7m in government funding, topped up by £1.1m from the county council. More than half of this funding is earmarked for families who have children including those eligible for free school meals, providing a £15 voucher every month from April to October per child, rising to £30 in August, and funding for the council's Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which helps families in hardship but who are not eligible for free school meals.

In addition, £2.2m of the fund is on supporting over 65s with money and vouchers. The council is working with the Norfolk Community Foundation to provide costs of living grants through the voluntary and community sector to older people, those with disabilities and carers.

[Find out more here](#)



# North Yorkshire County Council

## Using data to quickly distribute support

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In North Yorkshire, the county council worked with its district councils and used shared data to identify eligible people quickly, alongside a communications campaign, and then provide supermarket vouchers to those in hardship in the county.

Despite being a large rural county, the councils' efforts achieved a 98% takeup rate of the scheme, and over 8,000 households received e-vouchers in the lead-up to the busy Christmas period in Winter 2021. The funding distributed was from the Household Support Fund.

The scheme, which took only two weeks to set up, was shortlisted as a finalist in a national award, the iNetwork Innovation Award. The council is again working with district partners to distribute supermarket vouchers from the Household Support Fund, this time to over 22,000 households in July 2022.

[Find out more here](#)

# Staffordshire County Council

## Almost 30,000 helped with costs of food and water

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Around 27,000 children and their families will be amongst those helped out with the costs of food, water, and energy in Staffordshire this summer.

Staffordshire County Council will distribute £5.5m of the Household Support Fund, including £15 e-vouchers for food for families who have children eligible for free school meals for the May half term, and £30 for the two weeks in the summer outside of the council's existing four-week help programmes. In addition, all care leavers will be given a £50 voucher.

The county council will be working with its district council partners to target support, including to pensioners. The funds will also go towards the council's Winter Warmth Project which helps people struggling to pay their energy bills or who are dealing with the breakdown of their energy system - and provides money for people to purchase new, more efficient boilers.

[Find out more here](#)



## STEPPING IN: HELPING LOCAL AREAS THROUGH SHARP PRICE INCREASES

The dramatic rise in inflation in 2022 – jumping from 5.5% at the start of the year to 9.1% in May – has had a significant impact on people's ability to pay their household bills, with food, energy, and other consumer costs all rising.

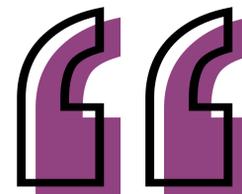
Whilst this has brought many more households into financial hardship, the height of the pandemic saw a significant rise in people becoming eligible for Universal Credit, with local authorities having to put in place help for low-income people such as financial and wellbeing support, distributing welfare, and seeing more households move onto council tax support schemes.

Therefore, when the cost of living crisis started to become acute in 2022 CCN member councils had a strong foundation of work to build on. This year, many have set up helpline hubs for residents struggling to pay their bills, which act as a one-stop-shop for signposting them to financial advice and mental wellbeing help. Many offer specific funding for people to help them in the short-term.

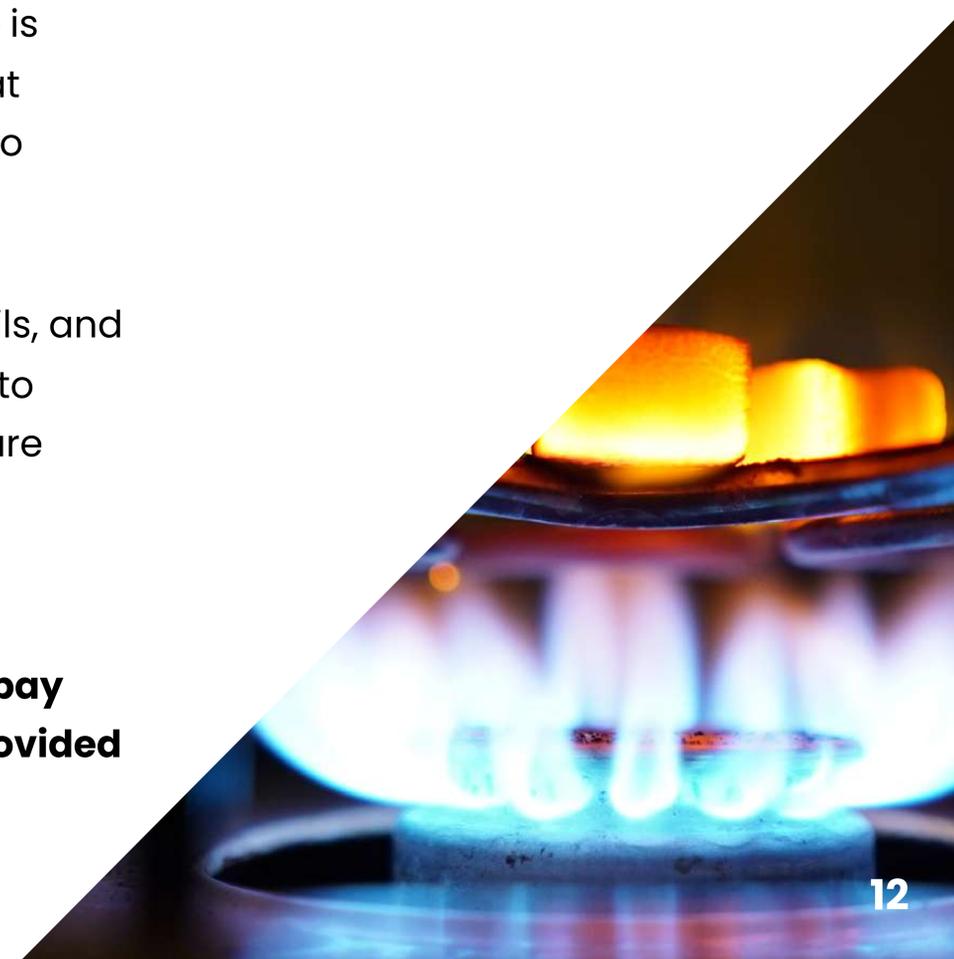
Other county and unitary authorities have put together substantive funding packages to assist people in paying their council tax bills, ramping up support during the cost of living crisis. The government's flagship energy rebate scheme is administered by billing authorities, and it has meant that CCN's unitary members have worked around the clock to process these rebates quickly.

Increased costs are also affecting organisations, councils, and businesses and CCN councils have had to move swiftly to increase fees paid to adult social care providers to ensure they continue to be viable.

**Across England, CCN member councils have delivered substantive support packages for those struggling to pay increased bills, in a short space of time. These have provided lifeline assistance to an increasing number of households.**



CCN member councils have delivered substantive support packages for those struggling to pay increased bills, in a short space of time



# Cheshire East Council

## Over £14m in rebates paid in a matter of weeks

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Cheshire East Council has rolled out almost £15m in energy rebates to thousands of people in just a matter of weeks during April and May.

The authority has now successfully issued 103,000 energy rebates, which is a one-off £150 payment to households living in council tax bands A to D. Since it began the rebate process in April, the council has paid most of the households in Cheshire East who pay their council tax via direct debit and has now moved on to those who pay using other means using a communications campaign.

The authority said it expects to pay the remaining 25,000 or so people in the area and said the fact that it has processed nearly 80% of the grant already is testament to the hard work of staff and officers who will continue to process payments effectively and quickly.

[Find out more here](#)

# Kent County Council

## 4,000 residents receive payment for water and fuel

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More than 4,000 of Kent's most hardest-hit households received one-off payments to help cover water and fuel bills from a £1.5m share of Kent County Council's initial round of Household Support Fund. The county council also ensured thousands of families whose children are entitled to Free School Meals were assisted with food vouchers for school holidays.

The council is also helping more people access digital equipment and skills, and financial advice, through its COVID Emergency Grant-backed Helping Hands Scheme. Meanwhile, Kent Together is the authority's local help hub for residents struggling with money worries or mental health.

Launched during the pandemic, Kent Together continues to provide a helpline and online information for residents offering practical support and signposting people to further help.

[Find out more here](#)

# Lancashire County Council

## Ensuring care providers remain viable

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Care home providers have been hit adversely by the cost of living crisis – and Lancashire County Council agreed to pay more in fees for adult social care services to ensure that they can cover inflationary costs.

The council has contracts with over 800 providers in Lancashire, delivering services to 35,000 adults who require care. The council agreed to uplift its fees from April 1st, with inflationary pressures such as energy price increases, staffing costs, and other running bills adversely impacting on care providers. The fee uplifts for care providers include increases of over 5%, and the total cost of the package to the council is £25m.

In addition, the proposals include increases in the fees for Carers, Shared Lives Carers, and an increase in direct payment budgets for people who manage their own social care packages.

[Find out more here](#)

# Warwickshire County Council

## Financial support and advice for residents

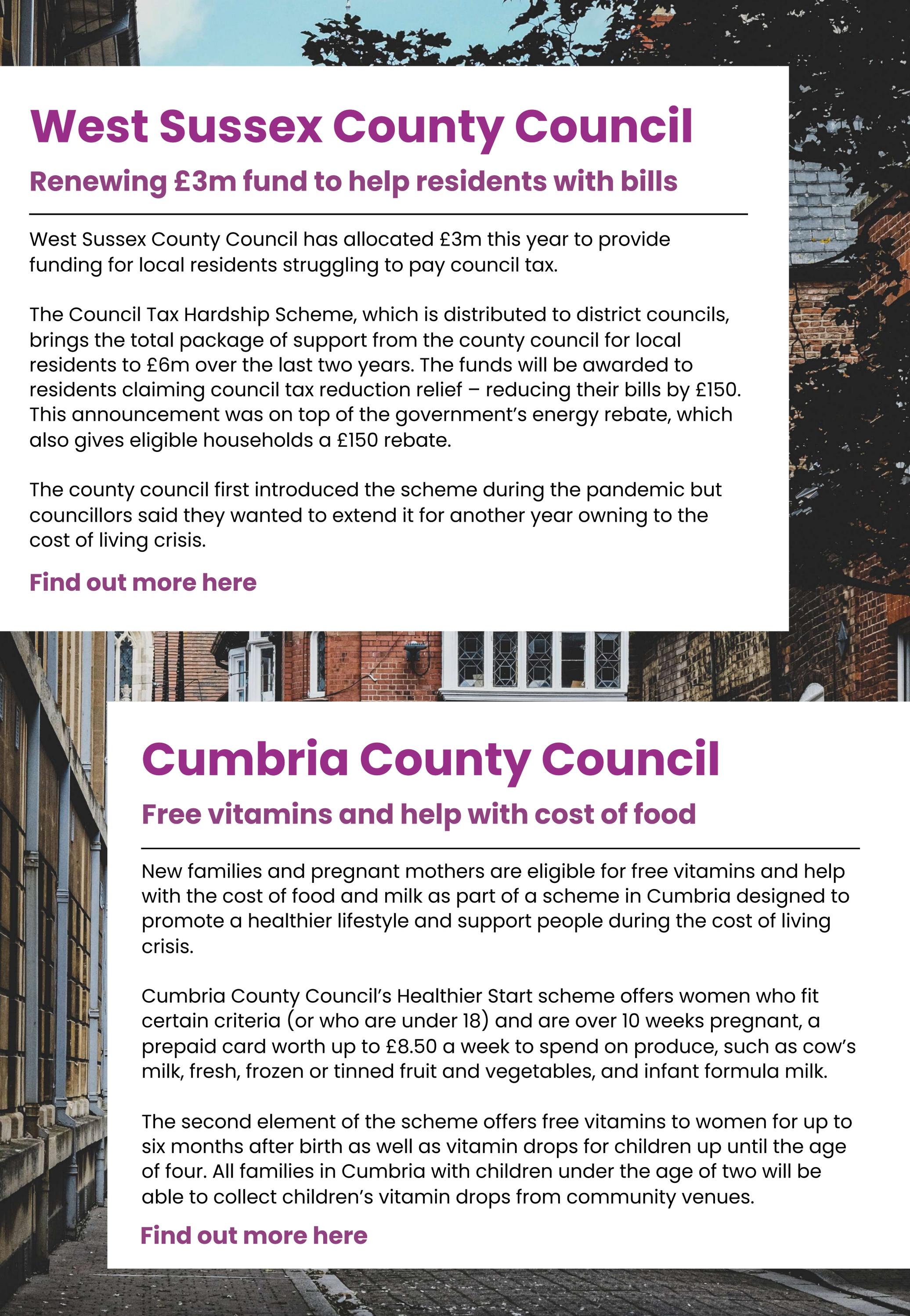
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Warwickshire County Council's Local Welfare Scheme supports individuals and households across the county who are struggling to make ends meet.

The scheme provides financial support and signposts to help available from other public, community and voluntary services. This includes debt and money management advice, family information and support, help to access food and household essentials, and putting people in touch with local emotional health and wellbeing services.

The welfare scheme supplements the councils' support that is being distributed via the Household Support Fund. Between October 2021 and March 2022, the scheme distributed £3.7million to families and individuals to support with the cost of food and fuel, including over 90,000 vouchers.

[Find out more here](#)



# West Sussex County Council

## Renewing £3m fund to help residents with bills

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West Sussex County Council has allocated £3m this year to provide funding for local residents struggling to pay council tax.

The Council Tax Hardship Scheme, which is distributed to district councils, brings the total package of support from the county council for local residents to £6m over the last two years. The funds will be awarded to residents claiming council tax reduction relief – reducing their bills by £150. This announcement was on top of the government's energy rebate, which also gives eligible households a £150 rebate.

The county council first introduced the scheme during the pandemic but councillors said they wanted to extend it for another year owing to the cost of living crisis.

[Find out more here](#)

# Cumbria County Council

## Free vitamins and help with cost of food

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New families and pregnant mothers are eligible for free vitamins and help with the cost of food and milk as part of a scheme in Cumbria designed to promote a healthier lifestyle and support people during the cost of living crisis.

Cumbria County Council's Healthier Start scheme offers women who fit certain criteria (or who are under 18) and are over 10 weeks pregnant, a prepaid card worth up to £8.50 a week to spend on produce, such as cow's milk, fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetables, and infant formula milk.

The second element of the scheme offers free vitamins to women for up to six months after birth as well as vitamin drops for children up until the age of four. All families in Cumbria with children under the age of two will be able to collect children's vitamin drops from community venues.

[Find out more here](#)



# COMMUNITY SPIRIT: SUPPORTING COUNTIES THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

County areas have substantial networks of community, charity, and voluntary groups that have provided lifeline assistance to those in need for several years – before the pandemic and this year's cost of living crisis.

CCN member councils have strong relationships with these groups in their local areas, and many recognise that there will be an increase in demand for support from people who are, sadly, having to approach these groups for help during difficult times.

County and unitary authorities have acted to bolster their community groups' capacity, such as investing in local Citizen's Advice Bureaux, working with national providers such as Age UK, or distributing funding to local charity and volunteer groups.

As well as boosting local community groups, CCN member councils have also frozen fees for public transport, adult education, and school transport this year, in recognition of growing costs for households. This will help allow people to stay in education who otherwise may have thought twice due to rising costs – which benefits not only the individual but the economic growth prospects of the whole area.

CCN's unitary councils have also worked collaboratively with development partners and social housing providers to build affordable housing properties in the area to try and make housing more affordable for people as other costs rise.

**CCN councils recognise that helping their areas through the cost of living crisis also means ensuring that community groups have as much capacity as possible, and that education and public transport is cost effective for people. This final section of the *County Spotlight* showcases some of the best examples of this across England.**



CCN councils recognise that helping their areas through the cost of living crisis also means ensuring that community groups have as much capacity as possible, and that education and public transport is cost effective for people



# Hampshire County Council

## Setting up a network of community pantries

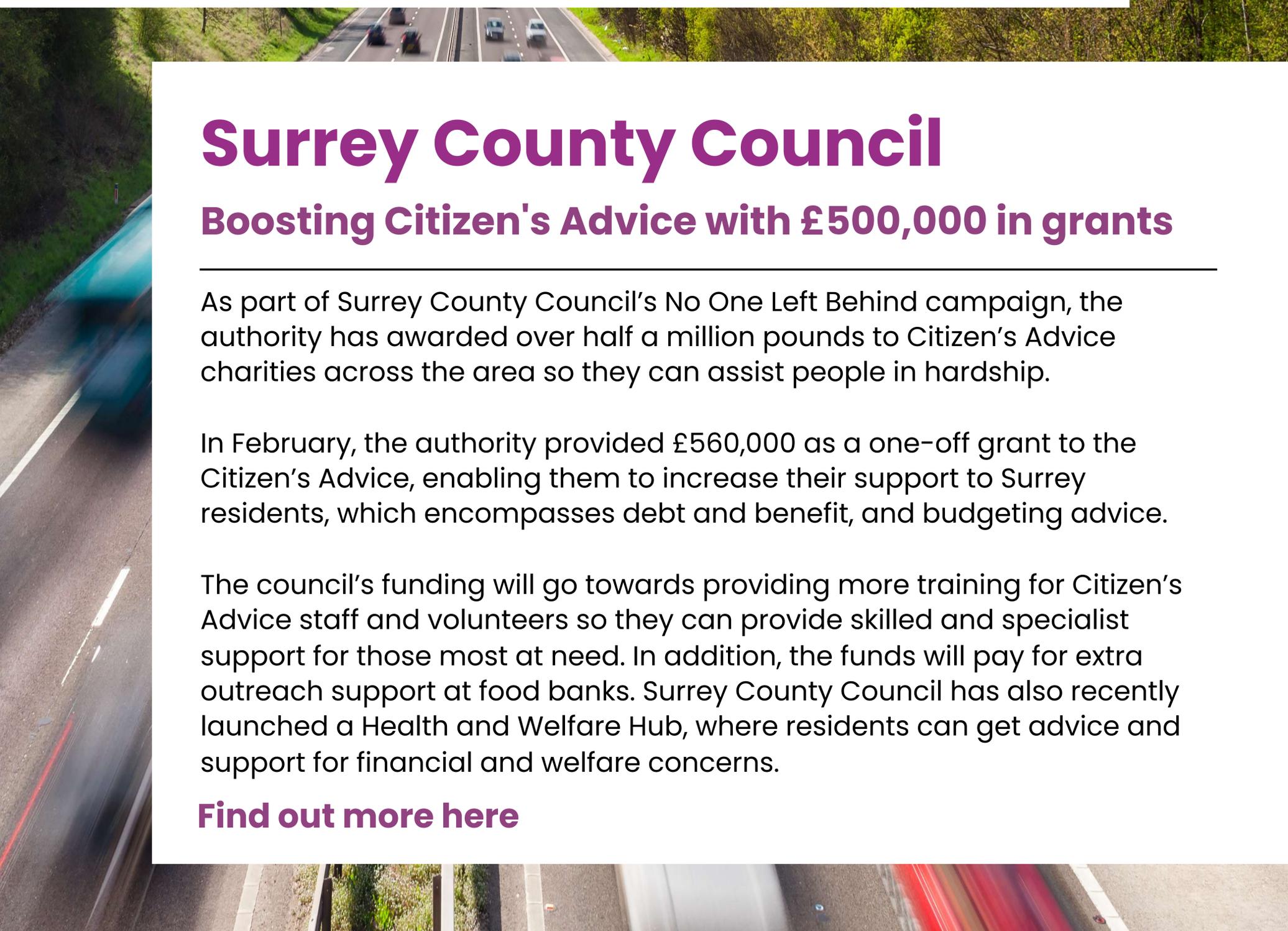
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Hampshire County Council has invested a substantial amount of funding to establish a network of community pantries across the county: operating from fixed locations and mobile provision.

Community pantries work by offering access through membership and, for a small weekly contribution, members can access food at significantly lower cost than supermarkets. In addition, several pantries also organise activities and increasingly provide wraparound support services, as well as social interaction for those who are isolated.

The pantries are supported by the County Council's connect4communities programme, which is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund - to help those most in need with significantly rising living costs. There are now 20 pantries in total, with coverage across all 11 of Hampshire's districts.

[Find out more here](#)



# Surrey County Council

## Boosting Citizen's Advice with £500,000 in grants

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As part of Surrey County Council's No One Left Behind campaign, the authority has awarded over half a million pounds to Citizen's Advice charities across the area so they can assist people in hardship.

In February, the authority provided £560,000 as a one-off grant to the Citizen's Advice, enabling them to increase their support to Surrey residents, which encompasses debt and benefit, and budgeting advice.

The council's funding will go towards providing more training for Citizen's Advice staff and volunteers so they can provide skilled and specialist support for those most at need. In addition, the funds will pay for extra outreach support at food banks. Surrey County Council has also recently launched a Health and Welfare Hub, where residents can get advice and support for financial and welfare concerns.

[Find out more here](#)

# Suffolk County Council

## Freezing fares for over 16 school transport

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To help families facing soaring living costs, Suffolk County Council has frozen charges for travel for teenagers and young adults to schools and colleges from the September term.

The council announced that fares for school transport for over 16s would be frozen at 2021/22 prices – with the authority’s councillors fearing that a price increase may put off people going into higher education due to affordability.

It means that the costs for these services would remain at £930 per year for mainstream pupils and £750 for the year for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Young people that fulfil certain criteria could also be eligible for some funding towards their cost. The council does not receive any specific grants from central government to fund Post-16 travel.

[Find out more here](#)



# Dorset Council

## Huge increase in affordable homes being built

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With costs rising across the board, ensuring affordable housing continues to be built in the right locations will help more people rent or purchase an affordable property.

The number of affordable homes built in the area covered by Dorset Council between March 2021 and March 2022 was 529 – an increase of 75% on the year before, with the local authority acquiring its own stock and working with housing associations.

The bulk of the properties were built by the area’s housing associations, with development unlocked thanks to the council securing grants from Homes England. The number of new properties also includes 41 properties that the council acquired to bring back into use, including modular units to help homeless individuals maintain a tenancy.

[Find out more here](#)

# Cornwall Council

## Majority of public transport fares reduced

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Cornwall Council is piloting a new scheme which will see the majority of fares reduced on buses across the county – a first for a local authority.

The aim of the scheme, following a successful bid for government funding as part of the council's Bus Service Improvement Plan, is aimed at encouraging people to use more public transport. With adult fares reducing by a third, the scheme will also help households and individuals with their costs.

The pilot scheme, which will run for four years, started in April. The council has worked with bus operators over the last six years as part of its devolution deal, and the fleet in Cornwall are amongst the newest in England, with many stops being upgraded with real-time passenger information displays.

[Find out more here](#)

# Nottinghamshire County Council

## Keeping adult education fares affordable

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To encourage more people to take part in courses this year, Nottinghamshire County Council has frozen fees for its adult learning courses.

Councillors said they agreed to not raise charges so the authority could continue to offer high quality and affordable courses during what is a difficult time for many households. The award-winning programmes are delivered by Inspire Learning, and include courses in Maths, English, and other vocational subjects.

During 2020/21 and in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, the courses recruited over 200 students aged between 16 and 19, who attained a 70% progression rate. Nottinghamshire County Council also offers the option to waive fees for eligible individuals.

[Find out more here](#)

# CCN

## COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK

Founded in 1997, the County Councils Network is a network of 23 county councils and 13 unitary authorities that serve county areas. The network is a cross party organisation, expressing the views of member councils to the Local Government Association and to the government.

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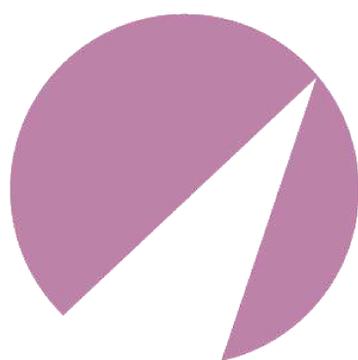
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