

Top up to the 2026/27 Crisis and Resilience Fund to support low-income heating oil households following Government announcement on 16 March 2026

Purpose

This supplement provides an update to the Crisis and Resilience Fund – East Sussex Delivery Plan Framework report regarding the top-up to the 2026/27 Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) [announced by the Prime Minister on 16 March 2026](#). It is recommended that the Lead Member considers delegation of authority to the Director of Adult, Social Care and Health to determine the use and distribution of the additional CRF top-up enable the Council to respond immediately to residents in acute financial need due to the sudden rise in heating oil costs.

Background

On 16 March 2026, the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness and the Minister of State for Employment issued a joint letter confirming targeted support for low-income households dependent on heating experiencing severe hardship linked to the spike in heating oil prices (Appendix 1). The Government has allocated £27 million nationally via the CRF, with East Sussex allocated £567,211.

The letter confirms:

- Authorities are expected to make support available immediately, before funds are formally paid next financial year.
- Funding is intended for residents facing acute hardship where there is a risk of losing access to heating or hot water.
- The Department for Work and Pensions will amend CRF guidance to explicitly allow support for households in crisis due to rising heating oil costs.
- No additional reporting or conditions will be required.

The published Lead Member report predates the Government announcement. Without additional approval, the Council would be unable to act at the pace expected by Government, who state support should be made available “from today” to households in crisis. Officers need to quickly establish application routes to support households at risk.

Given the nature of this emergency support and the expectation of immediate delivery, delegated authority to the Director of Adult Social Care & Health will ensure residents receive timely financial assistance.

Revised Recommendations

The Lead Member is therefore recommended to:

- 1) Note the background to Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) and the work that is completed and ongoing to develop our local East Sussex CRF Delivery Plan as set out in the report and the supplement;
- 2) Agree to the overall approach and high-level Delivery Plan Framework, noting that detail will be further developed and appropriate approvals sought for specific elements of the scheme;

3) Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health to determine the use and distribution of the additional CRF top-up allocation of £567,211 announced on 16 March 2026, to enable immediate support for residents in acute need arising from increased heating oil costs; and

4) Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Director of Children's Services to take any actions necessary in relation to the implementation of the Crisis and Resilience Fund Delivery Plan.

MARK STANTON

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

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Appendix 1:

Top up to the 2026/27 Crisis and Resilience Fund to support low-income heating oil households



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP

*Minister of State for Local Government
and Homelessness*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP

Minister of State for Employment
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

Monday 16th March 2026

Top up to the 2026/27 Crisis and Resilience Fund to support low-income heating oil households

Dear Leader,

Today, the Prime Minister announced targeted support for low-income heating oil households who are being impacted by the spike in costs. An additional £53 million of financial support will be allocated across the nations of the UK, accounting for the distribution of households reliant on heating oil across the country. In England, £27 million funding will be delivered via the Crisis and Resilience Fund to areas that have higher rates of heating oil, such as rural communities.

The government has identified your local authority as one of these areas and you will be a recipient of this additional funding. We know that there are vulnerable people facing immediate financial hardship because of the increase in heating oil prices, with the risk of losing immediate access to heating or hot water. We therefore expect that, from today, funding should be made available to those in acute need should you receive requests for support. You will receive funding next financial year as part of your Crisis and Resilience Fund payment, delivered through the 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement. Allocations are set out in Annex A.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund can provide help for exactly this kind of issue: to help vulnerable households facing financial difficulties as a result of a sudden unexpected expense, in line with guidance published by the Department for Work and Pensions. There will not be additional conditions placed on this funding, and we will not require any additional reporting on how it has been spent.

The Department for Work and Pensions will make a small amendment to the scheme guidance to reflect that support can be provided to households in crisis due to the increase in heating oil prices. Authorities should consider the likely effects of the spike in heating oil costs on their residents, including the types of residents that will be most affected. In these cases, local authorities should consider whether residents would be eligible for Crisis Payments. This could be via application processes, or through targeted support if it is known which residents are likely to be in crisis.

We recognise the operational challenges of this and appreciate the work that you do to help your residents in crisis. We hope that confirmation of this funding in 2026/27 will give you the certainty you need to continue this vital work and the confidence to help impacted residents immediately. We know that we are united in our wish to provide vulnerable people with the financial support they need.

At present, fuel forecourt levels remain above the average stock threshold, 40% across England. DESNZ are continuing to engage with industry to ensure supply and pricing for oil prices remains resilient.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison McGovern'.

ALISON MCGOVERN MP

Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Johnson'.

RT HON DAME DIANA JOHNSON DBE MP

Minister for Employment

Annex A: Crisis and Resilience top up allocations

Local authority	Top up allocation
Norfolk	£3,055,625
Lincolnshire	£1,825,511
Suffolk	£1,717,048
Cornwall	£1,586,427
Devon	£1,303,439
Essex	£1,227,847
Somerset	£1,161,216
North Yorkshire	£1,061,623
Kent	£998,009
Wiltshire	£783,725
Shropshire	£758,558
Cambridgeshire	£708,003
Gloucestershire	£595,565
Hampshire	£586,569
East Sussex	£567,211
Herefordshire	£517,865
Northumberland	£498,459
Dorset Council	£494,167
Lancashire	£454,515
Staffordshire	£451,295
Worcestershire	£449,587
Oxfordshire	£440,215
West Sussex	£425,685
Nottinghamshire	£387,872
Cumberland	£370,889
Westmorland and Furness	£366,077
Warwickshire	£341,715
Durham	£332,160
Derbyshire	£311,126
West Northamptonshire	£294,811
Buckinghamshire Council	£284,904
East Riding of Yorkshire	£284,844
Leicestershire	£222,102
Cheshire East	£217,350
Hertfordshire	£213,630
Cheshire West and Chester	£201,281
West Berkshire	£182,086
North Lincolnshire	£160,995
North Northamptonshire	£139,870
Surrey	£129,878
Bedford	£121,109

South Gloucestershire	£111,381
Central Bedfordshire	£106,366
Peterborough	£100,920
North Somerset	£100,241
Isle of Wight	£86,666
Bath And Northeast Somerset	£74,966
Telford And Wrekin	£63,389
Darlington	£35,356
Rutland	£30,868
Windsor And Maidenhead	£23,655
York	£23,137
Wokingham	£9,636
Isles of Scilly	£2,556