

**CABINET – 21 JULY 2026****ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE
PROCUREMENT OF TWO CONTRACTS IN RELATION TO THE CRISIS
AND RESILIENCE FUND****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNITIES,
LAW AND GOVERNANCE****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of action taken by the Chief Executive to approve two procurement requests concerning the commissioning of services required to deliver the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) between 2026 and 2029.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the action taken by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader to approve the procurement of contracts relating to the Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The County Council's Contract Procedure Rules (Part 4G of the Constitution) require that where a procurement under the Rules involves a Key Decision then prior to the commencement of the procurement it must be taken to the Executive (the Cabinet) for approval. The Council's Constitution (Part 3, Responsibility for Functions) provides that the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, may take action in-between Cabinet meetings which they consider is urgent subject to the detail of such action being reported for information to the next appropriate meeting of the body concerned.
4. In this instance, there was no Cabinet meeting in June to enable timely approval. In order to avoid delay to critical procurement activity associated with delivery of the Crisis and Resilience Fund, the Chief Executive approved the procurement requests.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. The decisions were approved by the Chief Executive on 3 June 2026.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. The action was taken in line with the Council's Constitution as explained in paragraph 3 above.
7. The procurement activity forms part of the delivery of the Crisis and Resilience Fund, as previously approved by the Cabinet on 28 April 2026.

Resource Implications

8. There are no resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The two procurements relate to the commissioning of services required to deliver the Crisis and Resilience Fund between 2026 and 2029, funded through ring-fenced grant funding provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
9. Both procurements are essential to enable the Council to deliver its obligations under the grant conditions and to ensure effective delivery of both crisis support and preventative activity.
10. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

11. None.

Officers to Contact

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PART B

Background

12. From 1 April 2026, the Department for Work and Pensions is providing grant funding to the County Council through the Crisis and Resilience Fund to support households experiencing a financial crisis and to invest in preventative activity that reduces future demand for crisis services.
13. Delivery of the Fund requires procurement of external providers to deliver key elements of the programme. Two Procurement Approval Requests were therefore developed to support:
 - i) The provision of a fund dispersal solution to administer payments to eligible residents in a secure and efficient manner; and
 - ii) The commissioning of Financial Resilience and Community Coordination services to support longer-term financial stability and strengthen local support systems.
14. As Key Decisions the procurements would ordinarily require Cabinet approval.
15. However, due to the timing of the procurement activity and the absence of a Cabinet meeting in June, there was a risk of delay to the procurement process, mobilisation and delivery of services. Delay would have affected the Council's ability to meet grant requirements and deliver support to residents in a timely manner.

Equality Implications

16. There are no equalities implications arising from this report. The commissioned services themselves are designed to support vulnerable and low-income residents and will contribute to reducing inequalities.

Human Rights Implications

17. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 28 April 2026 "Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026- 2029" and minutes of that meeting -

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=8306>

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