



## **The Society of London Treasurers**

**President:** Clive Palfreyman

Strategic Director Finance

London Borough of Southwark

160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Society of London Treasurers to repeat our request for the continuation of the Household Support Fund (HSF) into the 2024-25 fiscal year.

With the increases outlined in this year's local government finance settlement insufficient to address the financial pressures councils face and council budgets being finalised in the next few weeks, it is more critical than ever that essential programmes like the HSF continue. London boroughs under severe financial strain will be challenged to fill the gaps cancelling the HSF would create.

The HSF enables boroughs to partner with local voluntary and community organisations to provide much-needed support to low-income households struggling with the cost of living. Across London, boroughs are spending approximately £137.5 million on HSF-related activity during 2023-24, including providing meals to 472,000 children during school holidays and delivering emergency food support to 218,000 households.

Continuing the HSF for at least another year or arranging transitional funding will allow time for the effects of much-welcomed policy decisions like uprating the Local Housing Allowance and increases in Universal Credit and state pension to work through. This will allow for a better assessment of the need to continue the HSF in the future.

The Society of London Treasurers is at the forefront of managing the financial challenges faced by local authorities in the capital. With several councils in London facing significant financial pressures, maintaining support for targeted, preventative measures like the HSF is more important than ever.

We look forward to further discussions on how we can partner with you to address the urgent issues we face, maintain the provision of local government services, and strengthen the financial sustainability of the sector in the long term to ensure it continues to deliver the critical services, including those supported by the HSF, that our residents rely on.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CPalfreyman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clive Palfreyman

President of the Society of London Treasurers

Cc: Rt Hon Mel Stride, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities