'Warm banks' and 'mobile community shop' set for rural villages

It is part of a larger support package

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Councillor Kevin Dukes with the mobile food shop. (Image: Bassetlaw District Council)

Organisations helping residents deal with the <u>rising cost of living</u> will be given a £65,000 boost towards 'warm banks' and a mobile food shop for rural areas. Of that £65,000, a total of £22,000 will go towards a 'mobile community shop,' which will make weekly visits to villages around <u>Retford</u>.

A range of affordable items will be available, including 'food cupboard staples,' fresh produce, toiletries and cleaning products. Councillor Kevin Dukes, the cabinet member for corporate services at **Bassetlaw District Council**, said the grants will be part of a "package of measures" to help residents in the district.

"These organisations are providing a range of valuable services through money and debt advice, offering warm and safe spaces, or access to affordable food," he said. "We will continue to work with our partners such as Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS) and local health services to give residents advice and support, and are launching a hardship fund to provide help with essential items."

The **Retford** groups receiving support include the Muddy Fork charity, which promotes mental well-being through gardening, and the Well Baptist Church in Hospital Road. The council aims to increase Muddy Fork's growing capacity with a £7,500 grant, with a view to the charity supplying Bassetlaw Food Bank and Food Insecurity Network with healthy food options.

A further £9,000 will go to the Well to introduce a 'warm space', money advisors as well as food and support. A similar scheme, worth £5,000 is planned for Christ Church in Worksop. The services at the Well will be open to all, irrespective of religious beliefs.

Almost £30,000 will be spread across district-wide services, including the Bassetlaw Action Centre and its new £10,000 budgeting advice service. The tenancy sustainment service will be providing 60 slow cookers, recipe cards and more to help vulnerable households, thanks to a £2,000 grant.

Just shy of £7,000 will go to providing an advisor and a telephone helpline at Bassetlaw Citizens Advice to help residents with additional financial support. The community shop will initially visit Nether Langwith, Elkesley, Misson, Mattersey Thorpe, Rampton, Tuxford, Misterton, Beckingham and Clarborough.