

<b>WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EMERGENCY FUND</b>							
Title	<b>Belwin Scheme and Emergency Fund</b>						
Reference	<b>010</b>	Version	<b>1.0</b>	Date	<b>22/10/2015</b>	Author	<b>R. Britton</b>
Review	01/09/2018	Notes	Information document only.				
Purpose	To clarify the relationship between the Emergency Fund and Belwin Scheme resources						

1. The application of the Emergency Fund will be significantly related to the operation of the Bellwin Scheme. It is therefore important to understand this scheme before making decisions on the Emergency Fund. This document is intended to ensure that all those involved have a common information base upon which to make those decisions.
2. The Bellwin scheme provides emergency financial assistance to local authorities in England. It takes its name from a former Department of the Environment Minister, Lord Bellwin, who introduced the scheme in 1983. Assistance under the scheme is usually given as the result of an emergency caused by the weather, but relief may also be available in other circumstances: for example, the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001, the explosion at Buncefield fuel terminal in December 2005, and the riots of August 2011. Bellwin relief is provided under section 155(4) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which states that.
3. "A Bellwin scheme may be activated, at the discretion of the Secretary of State, in any case where:
  4. an emergency or disaster involving destruction of, or danger to, life or property occurs; *and*
  5. as a result, one or more local authorities incur expenditure on, or in connection with:
    - a. the taking of immediate action to safeguard life or property, or
    - b. to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience in their area or among their inhabitants."
6. The scheme is only intended to cover uninsurable risk, and there is no automatic entitlement to financial assistance. Ministers decide whether or not to activate the scheme after considering the circumstances of each individual case.
7. Applications may be made by the County and District Councils, Police and Fire Authorities and each has an indicative threshold of 0.2% of their revenue budget and the re-imbusement is at 85% of the cost.
8. The government is currently reviewing the scheme and this seems to be moving in the direction of limiting payment to the emergency period only (rather than including the relief period) but being broader in the areas on which expenditure can be made.
9. The Emergency Fund will limit itself to making payments which would not be subject to re-imbusement under the Belwin Scheme