

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

Decision Reference No: 2021/14/PH/CovidMonies

BOX 1

DIRECTORATE: AHWB

DATE: 06/07/21

Contact Name: Clare Henry

Tel. No.: 01302 734463

Subject Matter: Allocation of COVID-19 monies 2020/2021

BOX 2

DECISION TAKEN

To allocate £1.43m of COVID funding secured in 2020-2021 for key areas of COVID-19 related services.

To provide grants to pump prime the Community Renewal Fund awarding grants to Refurnish Chamber, South Yorkshire Sports Foundation and Voluntary Action Doncaster £20k

To provide a grant to Expect Youth to provide COVID safe summer activity programme £25k

BOX 3

REASON FOR THE DECISION

During 2020/21 financial support for local authorities was made available from the Government by way of grants under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to deliver key activities to respond to local outbreaks of COVID, provide containment interventions and support residents most impacted by COVID. The first tranche of funding under the heading of Test and Trace (T&T) of £2.23m was approved via a Rule 16 on 13th July 2020. Further funding was released under the heading Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) £2.495m and £5.527m both approved via a Rule 16 on 9th November 2020 and 23rd December 2020 respectively. All three approvals delegated to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health future decision making regarding these funding streams.

Under the terms and conditions of the grants underspends were permitted to roll forward in 2021/22, however the funding is ring-fenced for public health purposes to tackle COVID-19 by

working to break the chains of transmission and protecting people. Currently guidance states it must be spent by 31st March 2022. The current uncommitted balance is a combined £2m, this ODR seeks approval to allocate £1.43m for the following:

Environmental Health Team Enforcement & Engagement £100k: Ensure ongoing compliance, advice and engagement with retail, hospitality and licenced premises borough wide as national restrictions ease

Neighbourhood Response Team £350k: to cover costs of a borough wide resource for first response and dealing with group gatherings and potential business compliance and enforcement of COVID restrictions and guidance

Neighbourhood Engagement and Response Officers £369k: to provide targeted prevention visibility & engagement work in prioritised areas – supporting locality bronze groups with a 4 E's approach with a particular focus on high risk hot spots as identified in the visibility and enforcement plan.

Specialist Teams & Equipment £298k: the use of COVID funding to support vulnerable residents in Eden Lodge, Wickett Hern and Hamilton Court.

Community Renewal Fund Pump Priming £20k:

Application submitted and awaiting decision, to pump prime the planned activities to invests in communities and place by providing our residents with targeted and bespoke support to help them combat and overcome the challenges they face on daily, with specific focus on:

- Training, Financial & Digital Exclusion
- All-Age Loneliness
- Employability
- Health & Well-Being

By providing advice, guidance, and support in these key areas, we will help those people and communities in the greatest need. It will be a holistic intervention, targeting those areas we know have the greatest challenges, and those individuals within those communities who most need help.

Summer Activity Programme £25k

To support the delivery of positive activities to children and young people from diverse backgrounds across the borough

DARTS £8k: Provide additional capacity to develop a blended approach support vulnerable people and those self-isolating or shielding

Drug & Alcohol Family Intervention £110k: COVID funding to be used for year one of provision to provide support to adults with families where the parent(s)/carer(s) have primary alcohol/drug issues with caring responsibility for children. Year two will be funded from Public Health Grant earmarked reserve.

Positive Steps Unit £150k: Additional staffing costs due to staff working in cohorts for COVID infection prevention control purposes whilst supporting vulnerable residents.

BOX 4

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not to approve the proposed spending plan which may result in increasing budget pressures within the Council and potentially having to return unspent grant allocations.

BOX 5

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council the power to do anything that individuals may generally do.

Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a local authority power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

Financial Procedure Rules E15 – E18 should be complied with when granting funding to outside bodies to ensure that the Council's interests are protected at all times.

Legal Services should be consulted at the earliest opportunity to review any terms and conditions of acceptance of the grant funding and ensure that any obligations and in particular, clawback provisions are passed down to third party funding recipients in suitable funding agreements.

Goods and services being procured should be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and where applicable, the Public Contracts Regulations.

In administering the funding, specific legal advice should be sought on complying with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Technical Guidance on the UK's International Subsidy Control Commitments and Summary Guide to awarding Subsidies published on the 31st December 2020.

Name: Paula Coleman Signature: By e-mail Date: 08.07.21

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

BOX 6

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

During 2020/21 the Council received several ring fenced Government grants under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to support costs associated with tackling COVID-19. Receipt of £2.23m Test and Trace Grant was approved via a Rule 16 on 13th July 2020, Contain the Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) £2.495m and £5.527m both approved via a Rule 16 on 9th November 2020 and 23rd December 2020 respectively. Government guidance confirmed that this funding could roll forward into 2021/22 but must be spent by 31st March 2022. The aforementioned decisions all approved the delegation of further decisions from these grants to Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health.

At the end of 2020/21 £7m was transferred to Earmarked Reserves, £5m of which will continue to fund work/schemes outlined in earlier decisions and £2m has since been freed up to fund new priorities as outlined in the body of the report.

This report seeks approval to use £1.43m of the £2m per Box 3. £648k (£350k + £298k) will fund existing services that have been heavily involved in managing the pandemic, this will maximise the ring-fenced grant and therefore release existing council resources which will be taken and held corporately.

Spend against these grants will be monitored in line with the terms and conditions of the grants which includes monthly financial returns to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Name: Helen Rowlands Signature: emailed Date: 07/07/21

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

BOX 7

It is crucial to prevent and identify cases, clusters and outbreak of COVID -19 which requires effective resources that cannot be simply provided by existing service budgets. This decision is to allocate funding to enable the delivery of activities that will support the implementation of Doncaster's COVID Control Plan.

Name: Clare Henry Signature: CEHenry Date: 07.07.2021

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.

BOX 8

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

COVID-19 has had a greater impact on more deprived communities and people from ethnic minorities and may experience barriers to accessing to COVID related services. Analysis of data and insight gathered through community engagement will help to shape the services to address inequalities and support residents disproportionately impacted by COVID.

BOX 9

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Approaches to containing COVID-19 continue to rapidly develop with change in government policy and therefore it may be necessary to adapt our approach to quickly respond to these changes.

The COVID-19 Control Monies may be needed for longer than March 2022 and there may be future additional burdens linked to this grant.

BOX 10

CONSULTATION

This proposal has been developed with the COVID control board and council directors .

BOX 11

INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION

None identified

Name: _Claire Hewitt_ Signature _____ Date: 08/07/2021

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

BOX 12

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR YES

Test and Trace (T&T) of £2.23m was approved Rule 16 on 13th July 2020.

Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) £2.495m Rule 16 on 9th November 2020

Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) £5.527m Rule 16 23rd December 2020

BOX 13
AUTHORISATION

Name: Dr Rupert Suckling Signature: _____ Date: _13/07/2021

Director of Public Health

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer

YES

If yes please authorise below:

Name: Debbie Hogg Signature: _____ Date: 14th July 2021

Director of Corporate Resources

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Designation _____

(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)

Declaration of Interest YES/NO

If YES please give details below:

PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.