

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

APPROVAL FOR ALLOCATION OF CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND

Decision made

To approve the allocation of Contain Outbreak Management Fund received to the end of December

Made by: Andy Brown, Corporate Director of Resources (s151 officer)

Background

1. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Part 3 Section D, the Directors of Wiltshire Council are empowered to take all necessary decisions in cases of emergency. This decision is being taken by Andy Brown, Corporate Director of Resources, using these powers in circumstances where the Director concerned believes that there is a risk of damage to property, a threat to the health or wellbeing of an individual and/or that the interests of the Council may be compromised if this decision is not otherwise taken.

Reason for decision

2. This decision would in other circumstances be taken by Cabinet. However, in circumstances where the Cabinet is unable to meet to expedite its functions in a timely manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, this decision is being taken in accordance with the power referred to in paragraph 1 above in consultation with the Leader and other members of the Corporate Leadership Team. This decision will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.
3. The Council has received £5m of funding to the end of December from Government for use to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health. Proposals. Further funding is also expected to follow. The allocation of the £5m of funding is set out at Appendix 1.
4. I confirm that in making this decision I have considered the following in line with Wiltshire Council's Constitution:

Key decision requirements	Yes. This is the allocation of £5m of funding so is a key decision.
Views of relevant cabinet member(s), committee chairman, area board(s)	Yes. Consultation has taken place with the Leader of the Council who is supportive of the allocation of funding.
Consultation with local members (as appropriate)	N/A
Consideration of the area boards and delegated decision checklist for officers	N/A

on the issue of when and how to involve local councillors and area boards in decisions about local services	
Implication of any council policy, initiative, strategy or procedure	Yes
Consultation in accordance with requirements and expectations of consultation with the public	Yes
Range of options available	A range of options have been considered for the allocation of funding developed with input from Directors across the council. The use of funding has been prioritised on the basis of public health advice on reducing infections.
Staffing, financial and legal implications	Yes. The proposal has been developed with input from HR, finance teams and advice from the monitoring officer. Staff from existing teams working on project delivery will have time recharged to COMF fund.
Evidence of due regard having been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty.	Yes. The funding is targeted on supporting those in society who are most vulnerable – for example, provision is included for facilities on gypsy and traveller sites and laptops made available to pupils without, many of whom could be disproportionately from BME backgrounds.
Risk assessment	Yes. The funding has been allocated to target areas at highest risk of transmission during the latest lockdown.
Involvement of statutory officers and/or directors	Yes. The proposal has been developed with input from HR, finance teams and advice from the monitoring officer – and crucially with the advice and support of the Director of Public Health.
Regional or national guidance from other bodies	The allocation of funding is consistent with central government guidance on the COMF.
The council's constitution	Yes. This decision is an officer decision

	made under emergency powers.
Contract is suitable for execution under the e-signature process	N/A

Conflict of Interest

- 5. Not applicable.

Other options considered

- 6. There is no option to withhold funding as this would be inconsistent with central government advice. Consultation took place with a range of officers in developing these proposals and there is scope to fund other projects not considered in this round in further months.

Made by: Andy Brown, Corporate Director of Resources

Date: 7 January 2021

Appendix 1

CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND (COMF)

Funding received: [Tier 2 - £2 per HOP / Tier 3 £4 per HOP / Tier 4 £8 per HOP]

Up to 2nd December = £4,000,192 (Reflects lockdown for November i.e. Tier 4)

2nd December to 28th December = £1,000,048 (Tier 2)

TOTAL FUNDING = £5,000,240

Items to be recharged from existing funded Council Services to COMF:

- Funding for staff involved in testing, including external capacity for community mass testing = Up to £250,000
- Funding for staff involved in Local Tracing Partnership = Up to £250,000
- Funding for staff involved in Compliance activities = Up to £100,000
- Staff supporting or deployed into the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub and/or deployed or volunteering as COVID Community Champions – up to £500,000
- Communications & Marketing – up to £50,000

Specific Proposals:

- Warm and Safe option 3 - £500,000
- Wiltshire Shared Lives carers 15% uplift in fees to recognise increased costs since 2nd November – 22 weeks at £k per week = £44,000
- Provision of Laptops in Schools - £1,000,000
- Provision of county wide licence - £100,000
- Provide Flexible Pastoral Support around schools - £500,000
- Fund Early Year sector private losses where bubbles burst & closures take place, then fund a deep clean prior to re-opening – Up to £240,000
- Support to Early Years settings in the event of continued staff absence and where furlough hasn't taken place to aid containment – Up to £435,600
- Support Early Years settings to purchase PPE and increased cleaning costs – Up to £324,000
- Funding facilities on travellers sites - £15,000

For reference - submission to DHSC on 23 December 2020 to estimate full commitment of £4m:

Area/ Activity	Brief description/ breakdown (Including timeline/date of activity if possible)	Total COMF funding allocated prior to 2 December 2020
<i>e.g. support for wider vulnerable groups</i>	<i>Programme to house rough sleepers Community Hub programme</i>	
Testing	Lateral flow testing e.g. schools, fire etc (public health staffing)	£250,000.00
Tracing	Local tracing partnership (Public Health staffing)	£250,000.00
Compliance measures	Compliance (public health staffing)	£100,000.00
Communication and marketing	Communication and marketing	£50,000.00
Support for the clinically extremely vulnerable	Well being hub	£50,000.00
Support for wider vulnerable groups, including rough sleepers		
Support for those self isolating		
Targeted intervention for specific cohorts within the community	Shared lives payments to carers/option 3 on Warm and Safe/Specific groups in the community - will fund	£1,104,000.00
Specialist support i.e. behavioural science	Laptops	
Utilisation of local sectors (Academic, volunteers etc.)	Well being hub and community champions	£500,000.00
Support for educational outbreaks	Flexible pastoral support/support bubbles/staff absence support/PPE and cleaning @ schools	£1,500,000.00
Other	Contingency	£196,192.00