

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

APPROVAL FOR ALLOCATION OF CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND

Decision made

To approve the allocation of Contain Outbreak Management Fund received following confirmation of additional funding and roll forward of unused funds into 2021/22.

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 £11.5m of funding from Government for use to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health.

Proposals

4. The allocation of the funding is set out at Appendix 1.
5. I confirm that in making this decision I have considered the following in line with Wiltshire Council's Constitution: **(Please insert 'Yes' / 'No' / 'Not Applicable' and any other comments necessary to evidence the issue identified has been addressed)**

Key decision requirements	Yes. This is the allocation of £11.5m 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 on the issue of when and how to involve local councillors and area boards in decisions about local services	N/A
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

6. Not applicable.

Other options considered

7. 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 (as set out in Annex A of Appendix 1) and there is scope to fund other projects in further months using the contingency funding or any other emerging underspend.

Made by: Andy Brown, Corporate Director of Resources

Date: 29 April 2021

CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND (COMF)

SUMMARY OF CLT APPROVAL FOR COMF

	CLT Approved Plan 7 Jan 2021	CLT Approved Plan 1 April 2021
Approved Scheme	£	£
Lateral flow testing in schools	250,000	
Local tracing partnership	250,000	
Compliance staffing/county wide licence	100,000	
Communication and marketing	50,000	
Facilities on travellers sites	15,000	
Shared lives payments to carers	44,000	
Warm and Safe	500,000	
Specific groups in the community		
Wellbeing hub and community champions	500,000	120,000
Flexible pastoral support	500,000	750,000
EY settings support bubbles & deep clean	150,000	
staff absence support	435,600	600,000
PPE and cleaning @ schools	324,400	
Digital devices - home schooling	1,100,000	50,000
Longer Hours at HWRC		55,000
Work with providers on learning workshops		5,000
Ringfenced Public Health / Containment		2,750,000
Elections		500,000
Funding held for ASC Infection Control		1,000,000
Contingency		1,487,000
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS APPROVED	4,219,000	11,536,000

CLT 1 APRIL REPORT – FOR DHSC GRANT RETURN:

At CLT on 7 January it was approved to allocate out the £5m funding received for COMF against the activities listed in the table below. However given the uncertainty around cost, particularly for recharging staff time, and the lack of clarity on rollover/spend by end of financial year these allocations were uplifted to match the total funding received and indicate to DHSC that the fund was committed to be spent.

	CLT Approved Plan	DHSC Return
Approved Scheme	£	£
Lateral flow testing in schools	250,000	250,000

Local tracing partnership	250,000	250,000
Compliance staffing/county wide licence	100,000	200,000
Communication and marketing	50,000	50,000
Facilities on travellers sites	15,000	15,000
Shared lives payments to carers	44,000	104,000
Warm and Safe	500,000	500,000
Specific groups in the community		500,000
Wellbeing hub and community champions	500,000	550,000
Flexible pastoral support	500,000	500,000
EY settings support bubbles & deep clean	150,000	150,000
staff absence support	435,600	435,600
PPE and cleaning @ schools	324,400	324,400
Digital devices - home schooling	1,100,000	1,100,000
Contingency		71,240
TOTAL PROPOSALS	4,219,000	5,000,240

Since then it has been confirmed that the COMF funding can be rolled forward into 2021/22 as well as further funding being received. Total funding received now stands at £11.536m.

A return to DHSC on the allocation of this funding needs to be made by Easter Monday to enable the Council to be included in the allocations of the £400m national funding for 2021/22.

Proposals were asked from Directors for considerations on top of the approvals given above for consideration against the £1.7m funding allocation received for January. In addition, a task to capture activity from services that have been undertaken by staff supporting activities and cost linked to the already approved activities and funding is underway.

The table in appendix A lists the £4.5m of director proposals received and, following consideration by the Councils DPH, has recommendations for CLT on the activities to approve in this 2nd round.

There is concern around the uncertainty of the funding from Government in the £400m as well as the level of demand and requirements/conditions that maybe placed on the Council, in particular Public Health, in 2021/22. Although the COMF will be used to fund Public Health 'costs' in 2020/21 & lead to an underspend which will be transferred to the Public Health Grant reserve, this will be reported to Govt and should be used to fund Public Health activity as per the grant conditions/requirements.

Therefore, in addition to these proposals, it is proposed that £2.750m is set aside in the COMF to deal with specific containment activity / Public Health demands, to be determined by CLT during 2021/22.

A proposal to allocate up to £500K for increased costs in relation to the elections is also asked to be considered and approved.

If CLT were to approve Appendix A, plus the additional proposals set out above, there would still remain a balance of just under £2.5m which we would classify back to DHSC as contingency in our plans.

COMF FUNDING	£ Millions
CLT Allocations approved 7 Jan	4.219
Proposals as per Annex A	1.580
Funding for additional Election costs	0.500
Ringfenced Containment / Public Health	2.750
TOTAL CLT APPROVED ALLOCATIONS	9.049
<i>Total COMF Funding Received</i>	<i>(11.536)</i>
Remaining Unallocated "Contingency"	2.487

ANNEX A – DIRECTOR PROPOSALS

DIRECTOR PROPOSALS RECEIVED	Proposal	Accepted	Note
Extension of round 1 Flexible Pastoral Support to extend to a further term 5&6 (or more???)	0.750	0.750	Accepted need to understand intention & use
To support full return to education for vulnerable children including those with an EHCP and / or social care intervention in the context of increase in emotionally based school avoidance, increased risk of fixed term exclusion and need for an enhanced inclusion offer (reasonable adjustments). Over and above what schools are offering to all students in respect of "catch up" to bridge the gap of their vulnerabilities	0.500		Deemed recovery
To support young people who are NEET or at risk of NEET following reduced employment opportunities and personal challenges arising from the pandemic	0.100		Deemed recovery
To support CLA to catch-up on learning opportunities missed as a result of Covid-19, ensuring that attainment and progress is maximised for these children and young people over and above what schools are offering to all students in respect of "catch up" because we are the corporate parent .	0.100		Deemed recovery
Extend Digital Devices to Learners with an EHCP and CiC for 2021-22 financial year to facilitate access to catch up	0.050	0.050	Approved
In order to support young people with autism to re-engage with their communities and take advantage of social and learning opportunities it is proposed the a voluntary sector provider is sourced to provide a mentoring, buddying/friendship service for young people with autism who are struggling to re-engage with social and learning opportunities due to their mental wellbeing.	0.060		not outbreak mgmt
To extend the support to Early Years providers into the summer term and potentially the new academic year & with the reallocations of balance of funding for round 1	0.600	0.600	Approved
Extend current services to anticipate additional preventative measures to pre-empt the increased level of demand as a result of the pandemic; Lighthouse / FDAC / Splitz / Turning Point	0.500		Deemed recovery
Fund WCP to undertake work with providers on learning workshops from the COVID outbreaks that could then be shared in the SW and across all providers	0.005	0.005	Approved
Grants to care providers on a per bed basis for 173 care homes, to cover management of safe visiting and rapid testing, paying staff 100% of wages when self-isolating, paying agency and part time staff, deep cleaning Impact: more proactive support for these isolated groups > reduced hospital admissions, MH crises etc	1.000		Govt funding already being provided/passported
Targeted testing and health checks for harder to reach groups identified e.g.. water and land travellers Impact: more proactive support for these isolated groups > reduced hospital admissions, MH crises etc	0.030		Already allocated round 1
Tech-assisted pilot of digital enablers to support people with LD/autism in supported living. Covid has shown that some of the digital options we put in place pragmatically during Covid really work well for people – we should capitalise on this	0.010		not outbreak mgmt
Fund some expert psychiatry/psychology/social work support to do some intensive time-limited work advising providers how they can work with customers with complex communication needs (especially LD/ASD) to express their views/preferences, respond in creative ways, understand that when people exhibit "challenging behaviours" they are usually communicating something about their environment/relationships/etc. Providers need support to understand this and work with people's behaviours rather than reacting against them. Also to support providers to handle complexity and positive risk-taking	0.020		Deemed recovery
Mailshot to the 2,500 carers in Wiltshire that we believe cannot be contacted via email. They are often the most marginalised and Carers Support Wiltshire find it harder to reach them.	0.003		not outbreak mgmt
1 year fixed term contract to provide additional capacity in Advice & Contact with transfer in of Wellbeing Hub	0.075	0.120	Approved
Work with Carers support on an extension of the Hospital Liaison Service into 21-22 and support further development to ensure all decisions at discharge involve family members as the move to ward led discharge, discharge to assess and limited family visiting can impact on effective communication and carers are not always fully involved.	0.090		not outbreak mgmt
4 Mental health workers to meet increased demand/greater complexity	0.133		Deemed recovery
Funding for three, 12 month fixed term ASC posts to support current demand and establish whether this increase is short term due to the pandemic.	0.100		Deemed recovery
Uplift to Shared Lives Carers	?		Potential consideration in future
Cost of PPE if not longer provided free to providers and LA's after the end of June	TBD		Potential consideration in future
Infection Protection Control for day services and respite units	TBD		Potential consideration in future
Cost of Agency Staff to backfill for self-isolating waste collection staff	?		not outbreak mgmt.
Longer hours at HWRCs to allow social distancing until 21 June	0.055	0.055	Approved
Youth Covid Support Fund	0.160		not outbreak mgmt
Youth work offer linked to Holiday activity programme	0.058		not outbreak mgmt
Microsoft VIVA wellbeing application	0.100		not outbreak mgmt
Erskine House lease for rough sleepers	0.024		Already Govt funded
	4.523	1.580	