

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Customer and Digital) (Introduced by the Executive Member (Resources))	Executive Member Decision	9 December 2020

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER APPROVAL FOR THE PAYMENT OF COVID 19 TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENT SCHEME AS DIRECTED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek approval for the additional budget so the council can continue to meet the requirements of the Government's Test and Trace Support Payments.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. That a budget virement of up to £100k is approved from the £1.634m Covid-19 fund to allow the council to continue to make test and trace support payments in line with the Government scheme. Any payments made under the scheme will eventually be reclaimed from Government when the scheme closes.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT**

3. From 28 September 2020 individuals who have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to self-isolate and also meet the eligibility criteria will be entitled to a payment of £500.
4. A budget of £93,498.88 was approved in October 2020 to make the payments and manage the scheme, of this £67k was for the payment of grants and £26k for the cost of administering the scheme. This was funded through Government funding detailed in the operational guidance of the scheme.
5. To date £45k has been committed against the £67k of funding received for making the grants
6. The payments to date mean that the budget will soon be exceeded. As per the financial procedure rules, the portfolio lead in agreement with the Chief Executive, Director and S151 Officer can approve budget virements of up to £100k. It is proposed to vire up to £100k from the £1.634m Covid-19 grant budget received from Government. This will then be replenished through Government funding for the test and trace scheme which should be received on the programmes conclusion at the end of January 2021.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

7. A budget is required to continue making the payments

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. None as it is mandatory for the council to administer the scheme

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	✓
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

## BACKGROUND

10. On 28 September 2020, the Government introduced the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme (TTSP).
11. Individuals may be entitled to a TTSP or a discretionary payment of £500. This is to support people on low incomes who are unable to work from home if they are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and will lose income as a result.
12. The council is administering and managing the scheme on behalf of government and is responsible for the administration and making payments.
13. Initial Government funding was received as follows:
- Test and Trace Payment £42,000 = 84 claims
  - Admin costs of both schemes £26,249.60
  - Test and Trace Discretionary Payment £25,249.28 = up to 50 claims

## UPDATE ON SCHEME

14. To date the following payments have been made:

	<b>Funding Received</b>	<b>Funding Committed</b>	<b>Remaining Funding</b>	<b>Number of Grant Payments Remaining</b>
Mandatory	£42,000	£37,500	£4,500	9
Discretionary	£25,249	£7,500	£25,000	35

## RISKS

15. Whilst the government have pledged to top-up the funding for the mandatory scheme there is a risk that there will be a delay in receiving this funding, meaning that the council will need to fund it until settlement is received.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

16. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

## COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17. I certify this decision requires immediate implementation. The council is administering and is responsible for making payments under the scheme. A budget virement needs to be approved to enable payments to continue to be made.

## COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

18. This request is made so that a budget can be vired to allow the council to continue making the test and trace support payments to its residents in line with Government regulations.

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

19. The existing scheme (mandatory and discretionary) is in accordance with the requirements of the legislation. This report seeks to create a budget sufficient to continue the administration of the scheme.

ASIM KHAN  
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL

There are no background papers to this report.

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
Asim Khan	5448	9 December 2020	***

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 3 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



\_\_\_\_\_ Dated 10.12.20 \_\_\_\_\_

**Councillor Peter Wilson**  
**Executive Member Resources**