

## WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### SECTION A

**DATE OF DECISION:**

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**PORTFOLIO AREA:**

**Community and Leisure Portfolio**

**SUBJECT TITLE:** *Delegation of Authority to the Head of Community and Leisure Services to administer the Local Authority Practical Support fund.*

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

### SECTION B – IDENTITY OF THE “DECISION-MAKER”

**Name of Officer:**

**Andrew Ferrier**

**Title:**

**Chief Executive**

Pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of “Delegations to Chief Executive” in Part 3 of the Constitution, namely

“To do anything, in consultation with the Leader, which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of the Council's functions subject to:

- (i) the matter being regarded as an emergency or urgent situation; and
- (ii) a report back to the Council, Cabinet or Committee concerned. “

### SECTION C – SUMMARY

#### Background

Self-isolation of people who have coronavirus, or are at high risk of having the virus, is an integral part of the COVID-19 response and will remain so throughout the medium term, particularly in light of the threat posed by new variants.

The main reported barriers to successful self-isolation include:

- a lack of understanding about self-isolation requirements and the importance of self-isolation
- concerns about financial consequences and employment risks
- the practical, social and emotional consequences of self-isolation, including:
  - access to food and other essential supplies
  - not being able to carry out caring responsibilities and practical tasks such as dog walking
  - impact on mental health and wellbeing, including loneliness and boredom

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has established the Local Authority Practical Support fund for use by councils to provide support to people who have been told to self-isolate to carry out essential tasks or for offering social or emotional support.

Funding is paid to Upper Tier Local Authorities with further distribution to lower tiers. Test Valley Borough Council will be receiving a total of £24,000 to cover the period October 2021 – March 2022

The Council intends to repeat the successful model utilised in distributing previous similar grants in working with and providing funding to third sector organisations who have the expertise to deliver the required outcomes.

### SECTION D – THE DECISION

"That authority is given to the Head of Community and Leisure Services to implement and administer the "Local Authority Practical Support funding", including, if appropriate, allocation of funding third party providers in order to deliver the required support."

#### ***SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION***

***The decision-maker's reasons for making the decision recorded in Section D:***

Administration of the Local Authority Practical Support funding does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority.

Given the need to administer funds and deliver support speedily and flexibly an urgent decision is required.

## SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Communities and Leisure Service to implement and administer the funding; or
2. to refer the decision to Council.

Option 1 is the preferred option and the basis for this decision. Practical support to people who are self-isolating needs to be delivered expeditiously and an urgent decision is therefore required.

## SECTION G – OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

## SECTION H – BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were taken into consideration when making the decision:

Department of Health and Social Care guidance on the Local Authority Practical Support Fund: Self-isolation practical support: guidance for local authorities and the voluntary and community sector - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

## SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted

None applicable.

We certify that the decision this document records was made Pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of "Delegations to Chief Executive" in Part 3 of the Constitution and is a true and accurate record or minute of that decision.

Chief Executive:



Dated:

18/01/22

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

18.01.2022