

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION: 10th October 2020
PORTFOLIO AREA: Finance Portfolio
SUBJECT TITLE: Delegation of Authority to Head of Revenues to administer the Test and Trace Support Payments

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

From 28th September 2020 individuals are entitled to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or Discretionary Support payment of £500. These payments are to support those on low incomes who are unable to work from home but who are required to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and will lose income as a result.

The Test and Trace Support Payment eligibility extends to those who have been required to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, are unemployed or self-employed, are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result and are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

An additional Discretionary Payment Scheme is available for those not eligible under the foregoing criteria but who are on low incomes and will face hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating. Local Authorities may introduce additional criteria to determine eligibility for Discretionary Payments in their area.

Central Government will fund Local Authorities to implement the Test and Trace Support Payment and Discretionary Payment Schemes; including administrative costs and the cost of the payments themselves made under the Schemes.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

“That authority is given to the Head of Revenues to implement and administer the Department of Health and Social Care Test and Trace Support Payments and Discretionary Payments, including applying any appropriate additional eligibility criteria to the Discretionary Payment Scheme.”

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

Implementation and Administration of Test and Trace Support Payments and Discretionary Payments does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority. Both Government and applicants will expect funds to be paid out in week beginning 12th October 2020 and therefore appropriate authority is required to meet these expectations and make payment to eligible applicants.

Ensuring that eligible applicants can avail themselves of payment to alleviate self-isolation related financial hardship is considered to be an urgent situation, justifying the use of power set out at Section B.

Given the timing of the introduction of the Scheme, there is no meeting to which the issue of the Test and Trace payments could be brought and the Scheme must be implemented by 12th October 2020.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Revenues to implement and administer the Schemes; or
2. to refer applications (or the issue of giving delegated authority) to Cabinet.

Option 1 is the preferred option and the basis for this decision. The Test and Trace Support Payment and Discretionary Payment Scheme could not be properly operated under option 2.

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:

1. Test and Trace Support Payments: Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England.
2. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation) (England) Regulations 2020.

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:

25.10.20.

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

10.10.2020

