

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

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

26th March 2021

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Community and Leisure Portfolio

SUBJECT TITLE: *Delegation of Authority to the Head of Community and Leisure Services to administer the Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals funding.*

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

Over the past months, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued updated guidance to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Groups on how to best protect or ‘shield’ themselves.

Recognising the additional pressures on Councils that this would create, MHCLG has provided funding to Councils to support CEV individuals. Funding is calculated on a per-head CEV individual basis. Funding is provided via a non-ring fenced grant to provide maximum flexibility but Councils are expected to use the funding to deliver the activities and outcomes outlined in the Shielding Framework including (but not limited to) setting up and managing a local system, contacting CEV individuals, assessing the basic support and food needs of CEV individuals and facilitating delivery of that support where necessary and reporting on that delivery.

Funding is paid to Upper Tier Local Authorities with further distribution to lower tiers. Of the £760,000 paid to Hampshire County Council, £515,519 is distributed to the Districts, with Test Valley Borough Council receiving £41,517.04.

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 “Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals 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 Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals 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. The Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals funding 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:

1. COVID-19 Guidance to Local Authorities on support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals (including where shielding is reintroduced) 30 December 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:

2/3/21

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

2/3/21

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

12th 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

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

17th January 2022

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Finance & Resources Portfolio

SUBJECT TITLE: Administration of the Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant and the Additional Restrictions Grant.

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

Government has announced further grant funding to support businesses in the Hospitality, Leisure and Accommodation sectors that have been adversely affected by the Omicron variant of coronavirus.. Both these grants are fully funded by Central Government and are to be administered by business rate billing Local Authorities. The grants which are the subject of this decision are:

- Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant
- The Additional Restrictions Grant.

A summary of each of the Grants is as follows:

1. Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant

This Scheme enables grants to be made to businesses in sectors expected to suffer most as a result of the Omicron variant of coronavirus. Depending on rateable value, the Scheme sets out eligibility criteria under which businesses may receive one-off funding of either £2,667, £4,000 or £6,000.

2. Additional Restrictions Grant

This Scheme provides grant funding to Local Authorities to support businesses that have been affected by the Omicron variant of coronavirus but who are not eligible for the Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant. Local Authorities have discretion to determine the eligibility criteria and funding levels for this grant.

All grants awarded under the Additional Restrictions Grant must be made by 31st March 2020. All schemes set out certain exclusions to eligibility.

Payments under all Schemes are subject to the State Aid / Subsidy Control regime and any business which has reached the limit of payments permissible under the De Minimis and UK Covid-19 Temporary State Aid Framework will not be eligible for further grant funding. Applicants will be required to sign a State Aid compliance declaration. The New Burdens cost regime also is expected to apply, providing payment to the Council for administering the Schemes.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

“That authority is given to the Head of Finance & Revenues:-

1. To implement and administer grants under Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant Scheme in accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
2. In consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder , to determine the eligibility criteria and payment regime for the Additional Restrictions Grant and thereafter to implement and administer payments under those Schemes.”

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

Administration of these grant funds does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority. Government and businesses will expect applications to be determined and grants to be paid out as soon as practically possible. Therefore appropriate authority is required to meet these expectations and determine applications and pay the grants to eligible businesses.

There is no convenient meeting of the Council or Cabinet to which this decision could be brought. Waiting to bring the decision to Committee would cause unacceptable delay in implementing the Schemes and likely hardship to eligible Grant recipients. All eligible grants under these schemes must be paid the Council before 31st March 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular the Omicron variant, its associated restrictions and the need to immediately implement these grant Schemes constitute an 'urgent' situation for the purposes of the delegation described at Section B above.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Finance & Revenues (in consultation with specified members where appropriate); or
2. to refer applications (or the issue of giving delegated authority) to Committee.

Option 2 would result in delays and economic harm to businesses, would defeat the object of the urgent Government funding as well as damage to the Council's reputation and is rejected.

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:

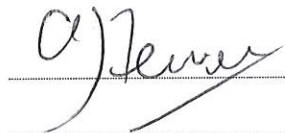
1. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant Guidance for Local Authorities.
2. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Additional Restrictions Grant – Guidance for Local Authorities

SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted

None.

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:

26/01/22

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

26/01/2022

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

13 February 2022

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Finance & Housing

SUBJECT TITLE: Household Support Fund and Vulnerable Rents Grant – Financial Support Scheme

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

The government has announced two funding streams which have been passed to the council to administer. The first via the Department for Work and Pensions, “Household Support Fund”, and the second via the Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities, “Vulnerable Renters Grant”. Both funds aim to support those who are struggling financially as a result of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The urgency of addressing the use of these funds is that they must be spent or committed by the end of March 2022. The funds will support Test Valley residents with their financial difficulties in the key priority areas of housing, utility costs, fuel costs and essential day to day expenses.

A summary of each of the Grants is as follows:

1. Household Support Fund - £97,000

This fund is to support residents in any property tenure with their essential living costs, this may include fuel related costs, transport costs, clothing, appliances and rent arrears as some key examples. The scheme cannot help with mortgage payments or mortgage arrears.

2. Vulnerable Renters Grant - £77,000

This scheme provides support to those in private rented accommodation, or those who need to secure new private rented accommodation. The fund can cover a wide range of costs to prevent the customer from becoming homeless or living in financial hardship.

The proposal is to run one scheme, Renters Financial Support Scheme, available for residents (those currently living within Test Valley) to apply for financial support online. A web page has been built with an online

application form. Staff within housing options will assess applications and determine awards in line with the policy. The policy has been written with due regard to the criteria and associated guidance provided by government in terms of using the funds.

The decision has been taken not to pay council tax arrears.

As far as practicably possible, applications will be looked at holistically with referrals and signposting to other services and support to ensure long term and sustainable solutions for people we are seeking to support.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

"That authority is given to the Head of Finance & Revenues and the Head of Housing and Environmental Health:-

1. To implement and administer grants under Vulnerable Renters and Household Support Fund.
2. In consultation with the Leader, to agree the policy and administration of the funds.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

Whilst the Vulnerable Renters Fund was subject to Cabinet delegated authority following its meeting in January, the administration of the Household Support Fund is not subject to delegated authority as it is not a homelessness grant. In that context, the proposal to merge these funding streams into a single TVBC Renters Financial Support Scheme does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority.

Government and our residents will expect applications to be determined and grants to be paid out as soon as practically possible. Therefore appropriate authority is required to meet these expectations and determine applications and pay the grants to eligible people.

There is no convenient meeting of the Council or Cabinet to which this decision could be brought and officer discussions on the best way forward to use these 2 time-bound funding streams have now progressed to the point of a draft policy to underpin decisions on applications received under the proposed scheme. Waiting to bring the decision to Cabinet would cause unacceptable delay in implementing the scheme and likely hardship to eligible recipients. All eligible grants under these schemes must be paid by the Council before 31st March 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic, its associated restrictions and the need to immediately implement these grant Schemes constitute an 'urgent' situation for the purposes of the delegation described at Section B above.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Finance & Revenues and Head of Housing & Environmental Health (in consultation with specified members where appropriate); or
2. to refer applications (or the issue of giving delegated authority) to Committee.

Option 2 would result in delays, the loss of central government grant funding, and economic harm to customers/residents, as well as damage to the Council's reputation and is rejected.

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. Guidance and criteria associated with the Household Support Fund - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils/household-support-fund-final-guidance-for-county-councils-and-unitary-authorities-in-england>
2. Chief Executives letter regarding Vulnerable Renters Fund – top up to Homeless Prevention Grant
3. Renters Financial Support Scheme draft policy

SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted

None.

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:

16.1.22

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

10.3.2022

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

29th March 2022

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Finance & Resources Portfolio

SUBJECT TITLE: *Administration of the 'Support for Energy Bills – the Council Tax rebate 2022-23' mandatory and discretionary schemes*

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

Government has recently introduced a package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate to help households with rising energy bills. The strands of this which the Council is involved in administering are:

- A £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in council tax bands A to D, known as the Council Tax Rebate.
- £144 million of discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who are in need but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate, known as the Discretionary Fund.

Summaries of the main and discretionary schemes are as follows:

1. Council Tax Rebate

A one-off, non-refundable payment of £150 for households in Council tax bands A-D. This also includes properties assigned an alternate valuation band of band D as a result of the disabled band reduction scheme.

The payment will be made where, on 1st April 2022, the property is someone's sole or main residence and is a chargeable dwelling for Council Tax purposes.

2. Discretionary Fund

This Council's share of the £144M national allocation is £178,050. This can be used to award payments to properties in Council Tax bands E-H or to provide additional assistance to properties in bands A-D.

Government has not prescribed how this funding should be distributed. Instead, it recognises that billing authorities may wish to provide support to other energy bill payers who are not eligible under the core

scheme. Councils are required to locally determine how they wish to offer this support.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

“That authority is given to the Head of Finance & Revenues:-

1. To implement and administer grants under Council Tax Rebate Scheme in accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC).
2. In consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Finance & Resources Portfolio Holder, to determine the eligibility criteria and payment regime for the Discretionary Fund and thereafter to implement and administer payments under those Schemes.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

Administration of these grant funds does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority. Government and taxpayers will expect payments to be made as soon as practically possible. Therefore appropriate authority is required to meet these expectations and determine applications and pay the grants to eligible ratepayers.

There is no convenient meeting of the Council or Cabinet to which this decision could be brought. Waiting to bring the decision to Committee would cause unacceptable delay in implementing the schemes and delay the measures designed to reduce hardship caused by high utility price inflation.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Finance & Revenues (in consultation with specified members where appropriate); or
2. to refer applications (or the issue of giving delegated authority) to Committee.

Option 2 would result in delays and economic harm to eligible ratepayers, would defeat the object of the urgent Government funding as well as damage to the Council's reputation and is rejected.

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. DLUHC Support for energy bills – the council tax rebate 2022-23: billing authority guidance - Support for energy bills - the council tax rebate 2022-23: billing authority guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted

None.

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:

29/03/2022

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

28/03/2022

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

27th May 2022

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio

SUBJECT TITLE:

Homes for Ukraine Scheme Funding and Local Support Offer

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

Government has recently introduced a scheme for refugees fleeing Ukraine and announced a funding package to support this, of £10.5K per refugee arriving plus premiums for those who may be of school age. The funding will be paid to Hampshire County Council with some of that resource being passed on to districts to fulfil their role under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

The districts have been working with the County Council and encouraging progress on an indicative funding arrangement for some weeks now, and HCC has now confirmed the indicative funding arrangement. It is necessary for TVBC to quickly mobilise local support for refugees using this funding to pump prime work on some key priority areas.

The distribution of funding to the districts is being undertaken based on the anticipated level of refugees in each area as at 17th May 2022, with the intention to pay the funding on account, in tranches of 20%. HCC have determined to hold back a further 52% of the total funding they receive for emerging pressures and medium term requirements. The indicative allocation for Test Valley is £609,840.

This funding is being provided to enable TVBC to address the following:

- Escalated host (home) issues
- Local communication including District welcome pack content
- Single Point of Contact for support needs
- CVS coordination, support events, translation
- Specialist Case workers per District including housing & homelessness & support for re-matching
- Escalated housing issues

Immediate priorities in Test Valley (and in the other districts) are to put in place specialist case working support for refugees and sponsors, and to ensure targeted support is available for community organisations locally.

Officers are working on the detail of how we will mobilise this.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

"That authority is given to the Head of Housing & Environmental Health:-

1. In consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Environmental Health, the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Revenues, and the Head of Finance & Revenues, to make decisions associated with the targeting and spending of Homes for Ukraine Scheme funding, in accordance with the requirements of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to enable the delivery of an effective local support offer for Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors in the local area.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

Administration of these grant funds does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority. Government and local communities will expect support to be mobilised as soon as practically possible. Therefore appropriate authority is required to meet these expectations and get dedicated support for this cohort on the ground.

There is no convenient meeting of the Council or Cabinet to which this decision could be brought. Waiting to bring the decision to Committee would cause unacceptable delay in implementing the support offer and delay the measures designed to support Ukrainian refugees in this area.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Housing & Environmental Health (in consultation with specified members and the Head of Finance & Revenues where appropriate); or
2. to refer decisions around how this funding is targeted (or the issue of giving delegated authority) to Committee.

Option 2 would result in delays and potential harm to refugee households, including a greater potential for homelessness impacts to arise from the scheme, and would delay the mobilisation of support for a particularly vulnerable cohort in the local area. Delays in targeting this funding may also cause damage to the Council's reputation. Option 2 is therefore rejected.

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. Funding proposal from HCC.
2. Phil Turner Briefing Note

SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted

None.

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:

8/6/22

The Leader of the Council



Dated:

8th June
2022