

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

3rd April 2020

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Communities and Leisure

SUBJECT TITLE:

Emergency Response Community 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:

Roger Tetstall

Title:

Chief Executive

This decision is made pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of the “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

This decision is taken in the circumstances of the on-going public health emergency presented by the Coronavirus pandemic which continues to constitute an ‘emergency or urgent situation’.

In order to respond to community need, on 26th March 2020 the following decision was made under the powers quoted above:

1. That an ‘Emergency Response Community Grant’ fund is established in the sum of £10,000 for the purpose of mitigating hardship in the community resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic.
2. Authority is delegated to the Head of Communities and Leisure Services to award grants of from this fund of up to £500 per application.
3. Authority is delegated to the Head of Communities and Leisure to determine the criteria against which applications for Emergency Response Community Grant funding will be assessed and awarded.

Community demand for assistance under the Grant fund has been great, to the extent that successful applications have all but exhausted the original £10,000. Applications are assessed by the Head of the Communities and Leisure Services. There are still a number of applications to be processed and likely that more will be received. It is therefore desirable to ‘top up’ the original fund to a total of £25,000.

The Head of Finance confirms that the additional £15,000 can be met from the New Homes Bonus.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

That the Emergency Response Community Grant fund established on 26th March 2020 is extended to the sum of £25,000.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

An Emergency Response Community Grant fund of £10,000 was established on 26th March 2020, making grants available to organisations or individuals who demonstrate that funding will alleviate a Coronavirus-related need. Uptake of this grant has been high to the extent that the fund is almost exhausted. There are a number of outstanding applications to be processed and it is likely that further applications will be received. It is therefore desirable to increase the fund to enable further applicants to avail themselves of it.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options are (1) not to extend the financial scope of the Emergency Response Community Grant (£10,000) or (2) to extend it. If the fund was not extended, the numerous applicants whose applications have not yet been assessed/processed and those yet to submit applications would not be able to benefit from it.

The decision was therefore made to extend the fund by £15,000.

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. The current Test Valley Community Grant Schemes:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/workingwithcommunities/communitygrants>

2. Decision Notice 26th March 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: _____

The Leader of the Council _____ Dated: _____
