

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SECTION A

DATE OF DECISION:

26th March 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

The Council operates a comprehensive scheme of Community Grants, some grants are for specified purposes and all have certain eligibility criteria and defined processes for application.

Given the unprecedented situation presented by the Coronavirus (CORVID-19) pandemic, the Council wishes to respond to community need by making grants to organisations or individuals where it is demonstrated that funding will alleviate a Coronavirus –related need.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is an ‘emergency or urgent’ situation as contemplated by the Delegated Powers quoted above at Section B

There is no convenient meeting of the Council at which this decision could be considered and notwithstanding this, secondary legislation is currently awaited prescribing how Council meetings are to be dealt with during this time of emergency and enforced social distancing.

The Finance Acting Accountancy Manager confirms that cost of the Grant Fund can be met from 2019/2020 contingencies.

SECTION D – THE DECISION

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.

SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

The decision was necessary to enable the Council to contribute to alleviation of community hardship by offering grant-funding in the most efficient and agile way.

SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The option of requiring those seeking assistance to rely on existing grants was considered and dismissed (which is not to say that those wishing to may not apply for those existing grants)

Certain community needs resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic may not fall within the scope of existing grants or the process for applying for those grants might not be swift enough to deal with urgent need.

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:

The current Test Valley Community Grant Schemes:

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

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:

.....

