

From: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Andrew Scott-Clark, Director of Public Health

To: Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee- 20 November 2020

Subject: Decision taken between Cabinet Committee Meetings

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: All

Summary: The attached decision was taken between meetings of the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee as it could not be reasonably deferred to the next programmed meeting of the Cabinet Committee, for the reasons set out below.

Recommendation:

The Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee is asked to note the following decision, which was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution:

20/00095 – Local authority test and trace service support grant and associated outbreak management funding

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides details of the following decision that was taken between meetings of the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee.

2. Reason for decision 20/00095 to be taken between Cabinet Committee Meetings

2.1 Due to an urgent need to deploy the grant funding to support the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the new local contact tracing service, the decision has been taken between meetings.

3. Background to the decision

- 3.1 A national pandemic has occurred in the form of COVID-19. In response to the pandemic, local authorities, including both upper and lower tiers, have and will continue to incur expenditure to mitigate and manage local outbreaks of the disease.
- 3.2 The Department of Health and Social Care has allocated £6,311,400 to Kent County Council from a new national funding package totalling £300 million. The purpose of the grant is to 'provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks'.
- 3.3 Following the implementation of the Local COVID Alert, the government announced the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to support proactive containment and intervention measures in relation to COVID – 19. Funding levels were due to be assigned to the tiering system, in which local authorities would receive a payment of up to £1 to £8 per head of the population, dependent on the Local COVID Alert Level in place. In line with the national lock down announced on 31st October, KCC has been allocated funding of £12,652,440, equalling the maximum allowance (i.e. £8 per head).
- 3.4 Confirmation of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund allocation for Kent County Council (KCC) was received after the relevant Proposed Record of Decision (PROD) had been published. Therefore, changes have been made accordingly to the Record of Decision (ROD) to specifically reference the new funding (£12.6 million) in the decision. The scope of the decision remains the same as the published PROD.
- 3.5 In alignment with the grant funding conditions and purpose, the funding will be allocated across four overarching categories as described in a newly developed funding framework. This will include allocation of funding to implement a local contact tracing service in support of the national Contact Tracing and Advisory Service (CTAS) delivered by KCC's strategic partner Agilisys. In addition to funding agreements with the 12 district and borough councils to support local delivery in line with need.

4. Decision details

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health has taken a decision to:
 - a) ACCEPT the Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support grant (£6,311,400) under the Department of Health and Social Care's (DoHSC) terms and conditions.
 - b) ACCEPT the funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (£12,652,440) allocated to Kent by DoHSC.

- c) APPROVE the funding framework (see Annex 1 to this decision) for the Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support grant, Contain Outbreak Management Fund and the four categories of spend:
 - I. Enhance the national response and enable delivery of national policy priorities in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.
 - II. Enhance local activities including those conducted by district and borough councils in the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.
 - III. Support population level approaches to mitigate against and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19.
 - IV. Management and overhead costs of administering the grant including project management, legal and IT software support.
- d) APPROVE the contracting of Agilisys for the provision of the local Kent Contact Tracing Service as part of grant spend related to category c) I.
- e) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary, to implement the decision.
- f) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Corporate Director of Finance, to accept and deploy further Test and Trace Support and associated outbreak management funding if made available by Government, providing the governance arrangements established by this decision may be applied with limited amendment.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Further details of the decision are published in the report that accompanied the decision.
- 5.2 The grant funding will support KCC to deliver its statutory duties to protect local residents, through the mitigation against and management of local COVID-19 outbreaks.
- 5.3 The decision notes the potential for receipt of additional, associated outbreak management funding and provides authority for the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member and Corporate Director of Finance, to accept this funding and implement arrangements accordingly. All subsequent decisions on the allocation of any such additional funding will align to the described governance and funding framework.
- 5.4 Members will be kept informed of the funded activity and associated outcomes via periodic reporting to the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee.

6. Recommendation

The Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee is asked to note that the following decision was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution:

20/00095 – Local authority test and trace service support grant and associated outbreak management funding

7. Background Documents

20/00095 - Record of Decision

8. Contact details

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