

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Andrew Scott-Clark

Director of Public Health

**DECISION NO:**

OD/20/0006

**For publication Yes**

**Subject matter:** Local Authority Test and Trace Service support grant and associated outbreak management

**Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:**

Clair Bell – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Key Decision **20/00095**- <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2416>

**Decision:**

As Director of Public Health, I agree to:

- a) To confirm and clarify the arrangements for managing the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (as accepted under key decision 20/00095).
- b) Accept the additional funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund allocated to Kent by the Department of Health and Social Care (in line with the delegated authority set out in the key decision 20/00095).

**Reason(s) for decision:**

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. In line with the national lock down announced on 31st October, KCC has been allocated funding of £12,652,440, equalling the maximum allowance of £8 per head. This funding was one of a series of funds that would be received by Kent County Council (KCC) to prevent and mitigate outbreaks of Coronavirus and was covered by the key decision 20/00095.

The Kent allocation of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) was confirmed shortly before the Record of Decision was published. In line with the grant's purpose and guidance provided by the Department of Health and Social Care (DoHSC), the council allocated funding to the lower tier Kent authorities. To agree the appropriate allocations and activities, KCC required time to work in partnership with the Kent district and borough councils. Therefore, a budget breakdown for COMF could not be detailed in the decision, instead indicative areas of spend were set out and the decision asked endorsement for spending to be aligned with the published funding framework.

In line with the key decision, a director level group called the Test and Trace Grant Monitoring Group (TTGMG) has been established to oversee the spending and ensure the funding framework is applied consistently. The group includes representation from public health advice, finance, public health commissioning and project/admin support.

The guidance provided by the DoHSC set out a number of suggested areas of spend which has been used to inform both county and district/borough council spending plans. This includes additional resource for compliance with, and enforcement of, restrictions and guidance, harnessing

capacity within local sectors, targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces, additional contact tracing, enhanced communication and marketing. Funding can also be spent in line with local need and aligned to the four categories of spend set out in the published funding framework.

KCC will also receive funding from the DoHSC to support the delivery of the Community Testing Programme. This funding will be provided from a separate funding stream to the COMF, however it is anticipated that COMF funding may be required to complement and enhance the programme. KCC will endeavour to recover the full costs of the programme and work to ensure that delivery is efficient where possible, e.g. utilising existing resources.

Table 1 below, summarises the allocation of the Kent COMF which has been endorsed by the TTGMG and approved by the Director of Public Health after consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health. Any variance to the below will be managed in line with the processes set out in the funding framework.

**Table 1: Allocation of the Kent Contain Outbreak Management Fund**

<b>Tranche</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Value</b>
1	<p><u>KCC Statutory Public Health body</u> The funding allocated to KCC will be applied to areas that are upper tier responsibilities or where it is more appropriate and beneficial to be led at a Kent wide level e.g. due to efficiency and consistency.</p> <p>This includes, but is not limited to, additional contact tracing, support for vulnerable people, communications, sector specific work and the Community Testing Programme as required</p>	£4,652,440
2	<p><u>Funding allocation for district and borough councils</u> An agreed formula (total based on population (50%) + deprivation (25%) + no of cases (7 day count, 25%) has been applied to the allocation of the £4,000,000 allocation across the twelve Kent district and borough councils.</p> <p>The allocations to districts and borough councils will fund areas of work which need a localised approach or are within lower tier authorities' remit. This includes, but is not limited to, support for vulnerable groups including the extremely clinical vulnerable and rough sleepers, targeted local communications, support and advice for businesses, compliance and enforcement work.</p> <p>Funding agreements in relation to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, are in place with each of the twelve district and borough councils.</p>	£4,000,000
3	<p><u>Retained Funding Allocation</u> Further funding for 2021/22 has not been confirmed. Due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic and the required provision, funding has been retained to ensure it can be flexibly deployed and is responsive to local need. This may include allocation of funding to</p>	£4,000,000

	testing and contract tracing, including the Community Testing Programme as required.	
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	In the event additional funding is required to supplement the allocations in tranche 1 or 2, funding requests can be submitted for consideration by the TTGMG and approval in line with the published funding framework.	
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Further outbreak management funding for the current year to support the mitigation against and management of COVID-19 outbreaks was expected. Therefore, the key decision (20/00095) included the delegated 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 funding if made available by Government, providing the governance arrangements established by this decision may be applied with limited amendment.

As anticipated the government have announced further funding for local authorities from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The fund will provide monthly payments to local authorities facing higher restrictions, as set out below, until the end of this financial year:

- upper tier local authorities in tier 3 will be eligible to receive funding of £4 per head of population per month
- upper tier local authorities in tier 2 will be eligible to receive funding of £2 per head of population per month
- those authorities in tier 1 will not be eligible for monthly funding

The funding is available from the end of national restrictions on 2 December until the end of this financial year, subject to a review in January 2021. Kent is currently in tier 3. In tier 3 Kent will receive £6,326,220 per month, if Kent moves to tier 2 the funding received will be £3,163,110 per month. This funding is designed to ensure continuity of the programme of activities being delivered with the key aim to reduce the rates of COVID and the county's COVID alert level. This may need to include supporting the community testing programme which is being rolled out in December 2020 if specific funding for testing does not cover all the costs.

The governance processes set out in the funding framework in the key decision (20/00095) will be applied to the monthly funding allocated from the extended Contain Outbreak Management Fund. KCC will refer to the grant guidance provided by the DoHSC and apply learning from other areas such as Liverpool to inform the local allocation of the funding.

**Financial Implications:**

This decision concerns the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The funding is separate to the Public Health Grant.

KCC will receive funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund consisting of a block payment received in late November of £12,652,440, plus a monthly allocation based on the COVID alert level up to a value of £6,326,220 per month (for tier 3).

**Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:**

**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health**

*I have been consulted and am happy to endorse this decision as it will support Kent to tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

**Corporate Director of Finance**

*I have been consulted on and support this decision as taken by the Director of Public.*

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

Reject the funding - The funding will support the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for vulnerable groups, KCC's statutory requirements and activity which is planned to or already taking place, therefore rejecting the grant would not be in the public's interest.

**Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None



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Signed: Andrew Scott-Clark  
Director of Public Health

18 December 2020

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Date