

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

20/00095

For publication

Key decision: YES

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions and expenditure of more than £1m.

Subject Matter / Title of Decision Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support grant and associated outbreak management funding

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

A national pandemic has occurred in the form of the coronavirus (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.

The government 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'.

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).

The funding will be allocated across the four categories of spend set out in the decision and will include the implementation of a local contact tracing service.

The Director of Public Health will allocate an appropriate level of funding to 12 district and borough councils to facilitate the provision of local delivery against the purpose of the grant.

As the pandemic evolves, subsequent outbreak management funding may be announced to further enhance the Council's capacity to prevent and manage outbreaks. This decision notes the potential for the receipt of similar grants 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.

This funding will be used to support KCC and the Director of Public Health's statutory obligation to protect and improve the health of the local population as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to contribute towards the delivery of the Kent and Medway Local Outbreak Plan

(https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/110224/Local-Outbreak-COVID-19-Control-Plan.pdf) and adhere to the DoHSC COVID-19 Contain Framework

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers#annex-2>).

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

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 and the scheduled cabinet committee dates, the decision was not considered by the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee before it was taken.

However, the PROD was published to all members for comments and questions before the decision was taken, as per the KCC governance process.

The decision will be noted at the next Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on the 20th November 2020.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The following options have been considered and discounted:

- Reject the funding - As with any grant there is an option to accept or reject the funding. The funding will support the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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.
- Outsource the management of the grant – The management of the grant could be outsourced either in full or in part to a third party. Outsourcing the management of the grant was discounted to ensure that KCC can closely control and monitor the grant and ensure flexible application to emerging need.
- Allocate all the grant to the district councils - The grant in its totality could be disseminated to the Kent district and borough councils. However, this would not support economies of scale, e.g. the development and roll out of a countywide campaign therefore this option has been discounted.

In addition, an options appraisal was carried out to decide the best approach to delivering a local contract tracing service. Options considered include contracting with Agilisys who hold existing KCC contract for the KCC contact point (call centre) , competitive procurement, non-competitive procurement such as a single source. The preferred option was to carry out a contract variation to the Agilisys contract as this provided quick mobilisation, flexibility and adaptability to respond to changes in national demands and value for money. This route to market is permitted within the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) and therefore has low risk of challenge.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

N/A

Clair Bell

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signed

17 November 2020

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date