

Background Information for Emergency Expenditure Request

Emergency: Coronavirus 2020

Subject: COVID-19 - Allocation of funding to support vulnerable people and communities

Date: 23 March 2020

Chief Officer: Sarah Robson

Council Constitution

Appendix D - Financial Procedure Rules

2d. Emergency Expenditure

Why is this important?

The Council needs to have in place a procedure for meeting immediate needs in the case of an emergency situation arising in the District.

General

2.32 The Chief Executive and s.151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer shall have the authority to approve expenditure on any item which is essential to meet any immediate needs created by an emergency or which is referable to Section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972, subject to a subsequent report to Cabinet and/or Full Council depending on whether or not the expenditure can be met from within the current budget framework.

2.33 The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council together with the Leader or Deputy Leader of Council, having received a report from the Chief Executive and the Chief Executive and s.151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer, shall have power to incur expenditure which is essential to meet any immediate needs created by an emergency or which is referable to Section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972 (or other subsequent legislation) which is not otherwise authorised or where it is necessary in the Council's interest to settle legal proceedings which have been commenced against the Council. A subsequent report shall be submitted to Cabinet and/or the full Council depending on whether or not the expenditure can be met from within the current budget framework.

Detail

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has directed for COVID-19 community co-ordination hubs to be urgently established to provide targeted support for those most at risk during the coronavirus outbreak. This is being led by Kent Resilience Forum's 'Vulnerable People and Communities Cell', who are working with the 12 borough and district councils across the county.

The hub will manage and co-ordinate the re-deployment of staff, community volunteers and resources to meet that demand, on behalf of the public sector. It will also pass on general offers of help and will work alongside existing voluntary and community groups to help maximise support for our local communities.

The hub aims to match people who can offer their time and specific skills with those who have been advised to self-isolate.

The Chief Officer - People and Places is requesting investment of £100,000 to be made available to support the district's vulnerable people and communities, including the emergency set up and delivery of community co-ordination hubs.

The funding will:

- Support the establishment of local community hub(s), which will be set up as the main spokes across the district, including support such as:
 - Direct funding to hubs;
 - Volunteering directory;
 - Staff resources;
 - Free parking permits to key workers, volunteers and health professionals;
 - Printing facilities (inc ID badges, passes etc) to support local communications needed in our local community hubs;
 - Vehicles and drivers to support critical activities;
 - Warehousing and storage capacity; and
 - Community supplies.
- Provide funding to the voluntary and community sector, where a critical needs or gap in service provision to the community is identified. This will assist them to mobilise frontline services.

Financial Impact

The Chief Officer - People and Places is requesting additional Council investment of £100,000 to be made available to support the district's vulnerable people and communities, including the emergency set up and delivery of community co-ordination hubs.

Requesting Chief Officer: Sarah Robson, Chief Officer, People and Places.

Approval

Chief Executive:



Chief Officer - Finance and Trading:

