



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

16 March 2023

Joint Report of the Interim Director of Finance and ICT the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Contain Outbreak Management Fund Finance Plan

(Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Budget, Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a Key Decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure greater than £500,000.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek Cabinet approval for elements of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund grant expenditure plan totalling £6.118m for 2022-23 and £2.540m for 2023-24.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 The Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) is a government grant intended to enable local authorities to fund the management of COVID-19 transmission and impact. The latest grant conditions and guidance received in December 2022 confirm that the main scope of the fund remains the control of COVID-19 transmission and dealing with its management and consequences. The scope extends to measures to

address the resulting impact on health outcomes and health inequalities caused by the pandemic and includes economic hardship and mental health impacts. The latest guidance also confirms further flexibility to carry over any unused funding into 2023/24.

- 4.2 A range of pandemic-recovery projects with clear Public Health outcomes have been identified by the various Directorates and reviewed by the Director of Public Health, as per the COMF grant conditions. The Local Government Association and the Association of the Directors of Public Health have also worked with Directors of Public Health to evaluate some of the national proposals around the use of the COMF as many other authorities had unused funding at the end of 2021/22. At the beginning of 2022/23 this Authority was holding £20.800m of uncommitted COMF including Test and Trace funding.
- 4.3 The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities has already approved under delegated authority the use of COMF for a number of schemes i.e. Warm Spaces grant, additional support for foodbanks, additional specialist advice and a small grants funding for community groups to support recovery from the pandemic.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No public consultation is required.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Grant conditions set out in 16 December 2022 letter from the UK Health Security Agency prescribe legitimate uses of the funding and encouraged Directors of Public Health to identify relevant schemes and to draft an expenditure plan to ensure that the funds are used in 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- 6.2 Do Nothing. The ongoing impact of the pandemic on population health outcomes and health inequalities has resulted in additional service and financial pressures on the public sector. There are few alternative funding sources to mitigate this.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

None identified.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

9.2 Appendix 2 – Schedule of proposed uses of the COMF grant

10. Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- a) Approves the grant expenditure plan for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2022-23 and 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 2.

11. Reasons for Recommendation

11.1 To authorise the Director of Public Health to apply the grant funding in accordance with the updated Government guidance and address some of the most significant ongoing impacts of the pandemic on residents of Derbyshire.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The proposed uses of the COMF grant reflect the updated grant conditions and flexibilities. The funding is time-limited so appointments, contracts and funding arrangements will need to reflect this.
- 1.2 Monitoring of schemes' use of funding and associated outcomes will ensure that any unused funds are identified, clawed back and re-applied.
- 1.3 The schemes set out in Appendix 2 do not represent the total amount of available funding; further schemes will be presented in the future for approval under delegated authority or by seeking full Cabinet approval.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has power to provide grants under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations state that grants above £0.100m and virements between Departments above £0.100m require Cabinet authorisation.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement will be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made and will include terms that provide for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and will also state that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The Council accepts no employment or future redundancy liability within the conditions of the grants awarded, with all employment and related matters to be managed by the grant recipients. This is also stipulated in the grant agreement documentation.

Information Technology

- 4.1 There are no Information Technology implications identified with the proposed use of COMF.

Equalities Impact

5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 Continue to deliver the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery in relation to health protection alongside wider partnership action to tackle health inequalities, contributing towards Council priorities including Resilient, healthy and safe communities and All people in Derbyshire are enabled to live healthy lives.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 The schemes presented for approval include continued operation of the Logistics Hub for PPE which supports care providers in Derbyshire to reduce the risk of transmission.