

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

25 March 2021

Report of the Director of Public Health

**FINAL ALLOCATION OF DERBYSHIRE'S CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):
LOCAL AUTHORITY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR FOOD AND
ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (REPORT 4)**

1. Purpose of the report:

To update the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities on the allocations of the Coronavirus (Covid-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.

To seek approval, as outlined in the report, to enable allocation of the final round of grant funding to external organisations as stated.

To further seek approval that further contingency identified as a result of underspend on projects is split equally between the projects outlined in this report

2. Information and analysis:

Derbyshire County Council received £0.808m in the form of a Local Authority Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies. This grant was provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to support people who are struggling to afford essentials due to the impact of Covid-19.

Local authorities have the discretion to identify and support those most in need. As such Public Health has been liaising with key partnership groups to develop ideas being put forward, and seek assurance that the grant is meeting local needs.

Three previous reports to the cabinet member setting out the background in detail and allocating the bulk of the monies were approved on 4 September 2020 [Minute number 37/20], 7 January 2021 [Minute 03/21] and 4 February 2021 [Minute 11/21]. Since those reports, disbursement of the agreed monies has taken place.

In all previous reports, in the 'risks' section it was stated:

“The impact of Covid-19 on our vulnerable communities is constantly changing, making it hard to predict future needs and pressure points. To mitigate against this, the report recommends that a level of contingency funding is set aside in the budget that can be allocated at a later date to meet any emerging needs that haven’t already been considered in the recommendations, or to strengthen ones that require more funding than anticipated’.

This report proposes expending the remaining contingency budget, to meet the conditions of the grant, by allocating the fourth and final round of money by the 31 March 2021. Due to Derbyshire Discretionary Fund, and the ‘Back to Learning Grants’ drawing down less money than originally budgeted the remaining contingency pot now stands at £0.180m.

This report proposes that remaining funds are allocated as outlined below, to extend the work of a selection of the projects previously approved in recognition of the continuing pressure that people are experiencing as a consequence of the pandemic. This approach is in line with the scope of the original report (4 September 2020) that recommended any contingency funding set aside in the budget could be allocated at a later date to meet any emerging needs that haven’t already been considered in the recommendations, or to strengthen ones that require more funding than anticipated.

Cabinet member approval is therefore sought as follows:

Cabinet member approval sought in this report to allocate as follows:-			
£64,000	Warmer Derby and Derbyshire – Winter Fuel Support	Marches Energy Advice	To work with food banks across Derbyshire providing emergency support on energy use to a minimum of 500 additional householders at a time of crisis
£25,000	Vulnerable population support	North East Derbyshire District Council (holding on behalf of Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group for countywide coverage)	Support the Homelessness Recovery Plan with essential supply needs for a further 6 months.
£42,000	Eviction advice service (North of County)	Derbyshire Law Centre	Derbyshire Law Centre additional court duty / eviction advice service

			capacity. Provide support for a further 6 month period to mitigate against demand in relation to eviction suspension.
£22,000	Eviction advice service (South of County)	DHA/ Derby Law Centre	DHA / Derby Law Centre Support to people 'out of scope' for legal aid who face eviction or a threat to their rented or mortgaged housing, for a further 6 month period.
£15,000	Supporting victims of domestic abuse	Derbyshire Wish The Elm Foundation Crossroads Derbyshire Glow IDVa service	Domestic and personal safety items to those experiencing domestic abuse, for a further 6 month period
£12,927	Rural Hardship Fund	Rural Action Derbyshire	Support those experiencing extreme hardship in rural areas with essential supply needs

3. Financial considerations:

Funding for these grants will be covered by Derbyshire's £0.808m allocation of the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies provided by DEFRA.

If the allocations outlined in the report are approved, it will bring the total committed so far to the full Derbyshire allocation of £0.808m.

Should any further underspend be identified, this report also seeks approval to award remaining funds equally to the projects outlined in this report. It is anticipated that this would be a minimal amount, but is subject to demand levels experienced by DDF.

4. Legal considerations:

The Council's Financial Regulations allow grants of up to £100,000 to organisations to be approved by Cabinet Members. The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

5. Risk considerations:

Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic there remains a risk that demand will outstretch resources.

6. Social Value considerations:

Health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the wider social determinants of health including access to food, unemployment and education. Poorer individuals experience worse health outcomes than people better off.

Socioeconomic deprivation puts some people at a much higher risk of catching and dying from Covid 19 (Health Foundation, 2020). Measures put in place to control the virus are also having a disproportionate effect on some communities, which is likely to deepen health inequalities in the longer term (Health Foundation, 2020).

The interventions outlined in this, and previous reports are aimed at supporting those most in need.

7. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, and property and transport considerations.

8. Background papers:

- Report for Public Health Senior Management Team: 'Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies' (4 August 2020)
- Report for Corporate Management Team: 'Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies' (6 August 2020)
- Cabinet Member Report – 4 September 2020 - Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential
- Cabinet Member Report – 7 January 2021 - Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential
- Cabinet Member Report – 4 February 2021 - Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies (Report 3)

9. Key Decision:

No

10. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

11. Officer's Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities is asked to:

- i. Note the information contained in this report relating to the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies and,
- ii. Approve the recommendations regarding the final allocation of grant funding to external organisations as stated.
- iii. Approve that any further contingency identified as a result of underspend on projects is split equally between the projects outlined in this report.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health