

Record of decisions taken by an officer under Standing Order 54 – urgent decision making



Title:	COVID-19 Surrey County Council Response to Covid - expenditure
Divisions Affected:	All
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Standing order 54 – urgent decision making

Meeting date/time	19 March 2020 14:30-16:30
Meeting title	Cabinet/CLT COVID-19 teleconference

Summary

The Council is responding to the Covid-19 major incident and therefore needs to make urgent decisions to ensure that residents are protected. Urgent decisions taken at the above named meeting are listed below with reasons.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

- . Expenditure required to address the impacts of COVID-19 on residents and support the sustainability of service providers is authorised, subject to costs being tracked in order to seek government reimbursement in due course

Reasons for Decision:

1. In an [address to council Leaders](#) on 16 March 2020, Local Government Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP committed to giving councils the support they need to contribute to the national effort to respond to coronavirus. The Government has committed to providing local authorities:
 - £1.6 billion to help them respond to other coronavirus (COVID-19) pressures across all the services they deliver

- £500 million to support economically vulnerable individuals and households
- Compensation to increase the Business Rates retail discount to 100% for one year and expand it to the leisure and hospitality sectors, and increase the planned rates discount for pubs to £5,000.
- an additional £2.2 billion to support small businesses that already pay little or no Business Rates because of Small Business Rate Relief

2. The Government has encouraged support to be provided swiftly and offered assurance that local authority costs will be fully compensated. Although specific allocations and funding mechanisms have not yet been announced, it was agreed that spending to enable residents to access the support they need and help ensure the sustainability of providers should start to be delivered with immediate effect. An urgent report will be taken to Cabinet on 31 March 2020 to seek approval to adopt provisions in government guidance that provide new flexibilities in relation to specific services and duties; secure permission to incur new expenditure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 within the county in line with government guidance, and adopt a process to govern and track extra spending and activity.

Decisions taken by:	Joanna Killian Chief Executive
Decisions taken on:	19 March 2020
To be implemented on:	19 March 2020

Decision taken in consultation with

Cllr Tim Oliver
 Joanna Killian
 Cllr Colin Kemp
 Cllr Mary Lewis
 Cllr Natalie Bramhall
 Cllr Mike Goodman
 Cllr Allison Griffiths
 Cllr Mel Few
 Cllr Matthew Furniss
 Cllr Julie Iles
 Cllr Zully Grant Duff
 Cllr Mark Nuti
 Cllr Denise Turner Stewart
 Cllr Sinead Mooney
 Leigh Whitehouse
 Katie Stewart
 Rachel Crossley
 Simon White
 Jacquie Burke
 Patricia Denney
 Hannah Futter
 Piali Das Gupta

