

# Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	<b>Use of Local Authority Framework / Practical Support for those Self Isolating additional grant funding</b>
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
'Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	<b>Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20</b>

## Summary

On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) published details of the LA FRAMEWORK / PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR THOSE SELF ISOLATING GRANT.

The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to local authorities to provide practical support for those self-isolating. The funding is ring-fenced for public health purposes to tackle COVID-19 working to break the chains of transmission and protecting people.

This scope of the grant (as detailed in the document 'Guidance for councils on practical support for self-isolation') is to enable people who are self-isolating to be supported in accessing food where they are unable to rely on family, friends or other support networks. Additionally, the grant enables support to people who do not have alternative support networks in carrying out essential tasks and social / emotional support.

Surrey County Council's (SCC) initial funding allocation was £830,854. This funding has been paid to SCC by DHSC in four instalments of £207,713 between March – June 2021.

Funding has been extended since July and increased to £250,963 per tranche/month for July, August and September, before reducing to £130,194 per tranche/month for October to March 2022.

SCC's total funding for 2021/22 will therefore be £2,364,914.

DHSC has not yet confirmed whether funding can be carried forward into 2022/23.

Local authorities are required to submit regular monitoring information about the use of the grant to DHSC. Failure to do this could lead to a local authority being required to repay the grant funding to DHSC.

## Decision made

It was agreed in the delegated decision report “Use of Local Authority Framework/ Practical Support for those Self isolating grant funding” 26th July 2021, that SCC would make the full value Practical Support grant available to Surrey’s 11 District & Borough (D&Bs) Councils subject to D&Bs confirming the value of funding required and the actual amount spent to support people self-isolating in their local areas within the terms of grant conditions, and this delegated decision confirms that in the first instance D&Bs will continue to be offered funding up to March 2022, and any carry forward of grant into 2022/23.

SCC will initially reimburse each D&B for the value of actual eligible expenditure they report to SCC as spent in the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. SCC will ask D&Bs to then submit a budget plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and will reimburse each D&B for actual eligible expenditure reported to SCC as spent against the submitted budget plan on a quarterly basis within this period. SCC will not make any reimbursements to D&Bs unless they provide an actual expenditure return.

If applications for funding received from D&Bs exceed the total value of grant funding remaining after initial reimbursements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, then the budget plans submitted for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 will be adjusted based on each D&B’s population weighted by the Index of Multiple Deprivation for each local authority area to ensure each D&B receives an equitable allocation of grant funding.

Currently the initial £830,856 received has not been fully spent due to low numbers of self-isolating residents coming forward for support and the very specific grant conditions, and it is unlikely D&Bs will need much, if any, of the additional grant received per month since July, based on latest information provided to SCC.

SCC will consider if any funding not spent by D&Bs could be used for alternative purposes to meet qualifying SCC costs within the terms of the grant and then return any unspent funding at 2021/22 year end to DHSC.

### Reasons for Decision:

District & Borough Councils already administer the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme and other forms of direct financial support to those who self-isolate, so they are best placed to distribute the Practical Support grant to the relevant individuals.

SCC’s Public Health service has worked very closely with Surrey’s District & Borough Councils throughout the pandemic and continues to liaise with them about the completion of the monitoring returns to DHSC for the use of the Practical Support grant to ensure it is being used to maximum effect.

Decision taken by:	Sinead Mooney – Cabinet Member for ASC and Health Leigh Whitehouse – Executive Director for Resources and Section 151 Officer Ruth Hutchinson – Director of Public Health
Decision taken on:	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022
To be implemented on:	Grant funding will be paid to District & Borough Councils throughout the remainder of 2021/22 based on provision of actual expenditure and budget plans to SCC as set out above. Funds not required by D&Bs will be allocated to eligible SCC costs and remaining unspent funds will then be carried forward into 2022/23 if allowable or returned back to DSHC.

#### **Alternative options considered**

SCC must spend the Practical Support grant in line with the grant conditions.

SCC could have chosen to retain the funding and distribute the grant on services to individuals self-isolating directly, but it is considered this would not have been the most effective means of discharging these responsibilities given that District & Borough Councils are already administering other forms of support to individuals who are self-isolating

#### **Summary of any financial implications**

This grant will help individuals manage the financial implications of having to self-isolate during the pandemic.




#### **Declarations of conflicts of interest**

None

#### **Consultation/Process Followed**

Decision taken in consultation with District & Borough Councils and other partners working with SCC in managing Surrey's response to the pandemic.

#### **Background Documents**

<p>Cabinet report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.</p>	 SCC Response to COVID-19
<p>Practical Support grant determination</p>	 5473 Grant Determination Lette
<p>Use of Local Authority Framework/Practical Support for those Self-isolating grant funding</p>	 Delegated Officer Decision Report temp