

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



Title:	<b>COVID-19 Surrey County Council Response to Covid</b>
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

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

## 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