

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: providing support to the Voluntary Community & Faith Sector (VCFS)
Divisions Affected:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

The COVID-19 outbreak is posing a substantial risk to the VCF sector due to a combination of factors. In recognition of this, and the vital role that the VCF sector is playing in the Councils response to the COVID outbreak, on 31 March, the Cabinet approved the development of a COVID-19 package of support for the VCF sector

It is recommended that part of this financial support package is delivered through the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS). It is recommended that £100,000 is contributed to the Community Foundation for Surrey. This will be used to supplement their COVID-19 Appeal Fund which has been set up to offer support to smaller charities and voluntary bodies seeking grants, of up to £5,000. This reduced the administrative burden on the Council in reviewing and approving smaller grants and utilises the experience and existing processes of the CFS.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

1. £100,000k is contributed to the Community Foundation for Surrey to supplement their COVID-19 Appeal Fund to offer support of up to £5000k to smaller charities and voluntary bodies.

Reasons for Decision:

To enable the CFS to offer further financial support to the VSF sector in Surrey and reduce the administrative burden of smaller claims on the Council.

Decision taken by:	Michael Coughlin – Executive Director TPP Denise Turner-Stewart – Cabinet Member for
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	Community Safety, Fire & Resilience Tim Oliver – Leader
Decision taken on:	14 th April 2020 <i>(note this notice must be published on the council's website within three days of the decision being made)</i>
To be implemented on:	Payment to be made immediately

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet have already acknowledged the requirement to provide some financial support to the VCF sector. The alternative is to provide all hardship payments through the Council's developed process. This places an administrative burden on Council services already under pressure during the COVID response and misses the opportunity to utilise the CFS expertise and established practices in the provision of grants within Surrey.

Summary of any financial implications

Initial payment of £100,000. This is expected to cover the period to end of June 2020 and will be reviewed at the end of this period. It is proposed that this payment is funded from the COVID response grant received from the Government.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

(list any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision and, in respect of any declared conflict of interest, any note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service).

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

(If delegation required consultation to take place with, for example, a Cabinet Member, include details here).

Background Documents

Cabinet report 31st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.

Exempt:

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