

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **22 October 2020**

Title: **Track and Trace Hardship Payments – Use of Urgency Powers Provisions**

Portfolio Area: **Leader of the Council**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **Y** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: A noting report – decision has already been made.

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive notes the urgency action taken by the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive, to approve the Discretionary element of the Track and Trace Support Payment.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council has recently been informed that Track and Trace Support Payments were to be introduced by Central Government and administered through local authorities;
- 1.2 At the same time, Central Government has also made it a requirement for a scheme to administer these payments to come into effect from 12 October 2020;
- 1.3 Due to the time constraints associated with this requirement, it has been necessary for the Head of Paid Service to exercise his urgency powers in accordance with the Council Constitution;
- 1.4 When exercising these urgency powers, it is a requirement for a report to then be presented to the next meeting of the Executive.

2. Background

- 2.1 Track and Trace Payments have been introduced by Central Government to support people on low incomes who will be financially impacted when they are required to self-isolate;
- 2.2 To overcome the incredibly tight timescales to ensure that a Scheme was in place by 12 October 2020, the decision was taken for the following Constitutional provision to be utilised:

Urgent Items

Matters of urgency, as determined by the Head of Paid Service (or in his/her absence another Senior Officer) shall be delegated to the relevant officer in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the appropriate Committee / body subject to a report being made to the next meeting of the appropriate Committee / body.

- 2.3 A covering report and a copy of the draft Standard and Discretionary Schemes (as attached at Appendix A) were presented by officers to the Informal Executive Briefing on Thursday, 8 October. At this Briefing, Executive Members expressed their support for both the approach being taken and the draft Schemes and were grateful for the swift action that had been taken by officers to ensure that there was no delay in commencement;
- 2.4 Following this Briefing, the Head of Paid Service has re-consulted with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive and has now used his urgency powers to formally adopt the draft Scheme as set out at Appendix A.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the Council Constitution which requires a report to be considered at the next meeting of the Executive following the use of the urgency powers provision.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 In the event of the Head of Paid Service not using his urgency powers, then any delays could have contributed to further hardship on residents who urgently required this payment.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 The Executive is asked to formally note that the Head of Paid Service has utilised his urgent powers to formally adopt the draft Scheme as set out at Appendix A.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		It is a requirement of the Council Constitution for a report to be presented to the next meeting of the 'appropriate Committee / body' following the use of the urgency powers provisions.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Risk		The risks of financial hardship to residents has been mitigated by the Head of Paid Service utilising his urgent powers provisions.
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Communities and Wellbeing
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding		There are no direct safeguarding implications arising from this report.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		There are no direct community safety, crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications arising from this noting report.
Other implications		

Supporting Information

Appendices:

A1: Copy of the report presented to the Head of Paid Service;

A2: The draft Policy Standard Scheme; and

A3: The draft Policy Discretionary Scheme.

Background Papers:

Council Constitution; and

Test and Trace Implementation Guide