

Officer Decision Record



This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Decision Maker:	Janet Waggott, Chief Executive
Lead Officers:	June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services and Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council (Responsible Head of Service for Licensing & Legal)
Title of Decision:	Additional Resources for Environmental, Enforcement and Licensing Services resources to respond the Covid-19 emergency
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Key decision <input type="checkbox"/> Non-key decision discharging (or connected to the discharge of) an Executive function <input type="checkbox"/> Specific delegation from Council or Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Grant of permission / licence <input type="checkbox"/> Affecting the rights of an individual <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding a contract or incurring expenditure which materially affects the financial position of the Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision under urgency (Part 3, 3.9.3(k)(i))
Details of decision:	<p>The Councils Regulatory Services; Environmental Health (EH), Licensing and Enforcement, (supported by Legal) deliver core statutory functions and together are key to building the public confidence in the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Services have managed superbly in the short term, but such continued pressure is unsustainable, and demand is expected to continue for at least another year.</p> <p>Following the latest Government announcements that current restrictions will be in place for a least 6 months and the</p>

	<p>increased emphasis on compliance by businesses and powers to respond to this ensuring the guidelines are followed, resources in the services need to be addressed to alleviate the pressure on the teams undertaking this work and ensure the services are adequately resourced to support the Outbreak Management Plan and to build capacity and resilience within the services.</p> <p>The resource required for this work is £157,890, over 2 financial years: 2020/21 £78,945 2021/22 £78,945</p> <p>This funding will be used to provide additional resources for Licensing, Legal fees, Environmental Health and Enforcement Services.</p> <p>A decision is sought from the Chief Executive that the funding be approved.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>The Chief Executive agreed that funds of £157,890 to be allocated over the 2020/21 and 2021-22 financial years be approved for the provision of resources in the Environmental, Enforcement and Licensing Services to respond to the Covid-19 emergency.</p>
<p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p>This decision is required as a matter of urgency. The Chief Executive has consulted with the Leader of the Council and is of the opinion that the Covid-19 pandemic is a situation that seriously affects the functions of the Council and the well being of the Council's area. This decision will enable the Council to put into place arrangements so the Council can respond to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and comply with its statutory duties.</p> <p>Legislation and regulations have been updated on several occasions and that in itself has required officers to spend a significant amount of time to get to grips with these changes and interpret the new regulations and ensure we can administer the new duties.</p> <p>Increasing resources will mitigate this to an extent but the teams still have to work within the Covid-19 framework to ensure all the safe working practices put in place by Government and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to ensure Council Officers along with the people and businesses that need our support are engaged with safely.</p> <p>In addition, North Yorkshire Public Health (PH), given the</p>

	<p>responsibility by Government for developing and implementing the North Yorkshire (NY) Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan are relying heavily on each of the district and borough Council's for support to manage local outbreaks. This is primarily because PH has extremely limited resources and very limited practical local knowledge to inform their decision making. As it is unfolding PH expectations are that county and districts councils will help support the NY Covid-19 response in the majority of settings, businesses, licenced premises, community, events and large gatherings and housing.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>The alternative option is not to provide additional resources. This has been rejected because there would be a real risk that the Council would fail to adequately respond to the Covid-19 emergency. In addition, there would be an unacceptable risk that it would fail to meet the Council's minimum statutory service requirements.</p>
<p>Member Interests: <i>(Name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision and details of any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service if appropriate)</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Legal, Financial or other implications:</p>	<p>There is sufficient in Operational Contingencies to cover this in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 but for 2020/21 it will mean drawing down funding originally earmarked for potential additional LGR costs. This will leave £71k for LGR in 2020/21 and £150k in 2021/22. Funding has been claimed from NYCC (but has not yet been confirmed), which may ultimately reduce the call on contingency. Legal implications could be significant if the Council was unable to fulfil its statutory obligations across Environmental Health and Licensing.</p>
<p>Background papers:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Contact details for further information:</p>	<p>June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services jrothwell@selby.gov.uk</p>

	Drew Fussey, Operational Services Manager dfussey@selby.gov.uk
Signed:	<i>Signature redacted</i> Janet Waggott, Chief Executive
Date of Decision:	7 October 2020