

Individual Member Decision Record



This form records an individual Member 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:	Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Lead Officers:	Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer, (SDC) / June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services
Title of Decision:	Test & Trace Support Payment Discretionary Scheme Funding
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
Details of decision:	<p>The report provides an update on the current position of the Test & Trace Support Payment Scheme. From September 2020 the government put into place a legal duty for people to self-isolate. To support those on low incomes who are unable to work while self-isolating they also introduced a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment and asked local authorities to administer it.</p> <p>Central Government set criteria for the £500 payments but also asked authorities to have a discretionary scheme in place for payments to those who do not fulfil the conditions of the Standard scheme. Funding for the Discretionary scheme would</p>

	<p>be limited, and any spend beyond the allocation would not be met.</p> <p>The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) also announced that the support payment scheme would be extended from the original end date of 31 January to 31 March 2021. The further funding we have been given will shortly be exhausted again and the authority is proposing to use other funding from central government to keep the scheme open. There is funding left in the COVID-19 Council Tax Support Hardship scheme that could be used for this, we propose to move £50,00 of this remaining funding to continue to Discretionary Test & Trace Support Scheme.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as the matter is urgent, due to putting in place arrangements for Covid-19, the Leader agrees that an additional £50,000 of funding from the COVID 19 Council Tax Support Hardship fund is moved to continue the Discretionary Test & Trace Support Payment Scheme for a further period.</p>
Reason for decision:	To continue funding the Discretionary Test & Trace support scheme which allows those in financial hardship who are told to self-isolate to stay at home. This will assist the District in the nationwide effort to drive down the case numbers.
Alternative options considered and rejected:	Not applicable.
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>	None declared.
Legal, Financial or other implications:	An estimated £145k funding is available from the COVID-19 Council Tax Hardship scheme which has already been allocated to the authority from central government. It is proposed that £50k be allocated to extend the discretionary test and trace support scheme. The requirements for both test

	<p>and trace support and council tax hardship will be kept under review.</p> <p>The decision is within the Budget and Policy Framework therefore there is no requirement to consult the Chair of Policy Review Committee on this occasion.</p> <p>As the decision is made under urgency powers it is not subject to call-in. The Chief Executive confirms that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and is to be treated as urgent.</p>
Background papers:	None.
Contact details for further information:	<p>Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer (SDC) kiveson@selby.gov.uk</p> <p>June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services jrothwell@selby.gov.uk</p>
Signed:	<p><i>Signature redacted</i></p> <p>Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark Crane</p>
Date of Decision:	11 February 2021