

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE USING URGENCY POWERS**

**13 MAY 2020**

### **ADDITION TO THE REVENUE BUDGET**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Leader  
Report from: Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer  
Author: Katey Durkin, Head of Finance Strategy

#### **Summary**

This report seeks the Chief Executive's approval, using urgency powers, to approve the addition of further Covid-19 grant funding, made available by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), to the Council's revenue budget.

#### **1. Budget and policy framework**

- 1.1. It is the responsibility of Cabinet to ensure that expenditure remains within the budgets approved by the Council, but it remains the responsibility of Council to approve additions to the Capital Programme and Revenue Budget.
- 1.2. Therefore, it is proposed that the Chief Executive uses the urgency provisions as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Employee Delegation Scheme (including consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Labour Group) to agree an addition to the revenue budget funded from grant provided by Central Government. The use of these urgency provisions will be reported to Full Council on 16 July 2020 for information.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 On 31 March 2020 the Chief Executive used the urgency provisions as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Employee Delegation Scheme to add the £6.628 million of Covid-19 emergency funding from the government to the Council's budget for 2019/20.
- 2.2 A further £1.6billion of additional funding was announced on 18 April 2020 to help Councils to deal with the immediate impacts of coronavirus. The funding is not ring-fenced, recognising that local authorities are best placed to decide how this money is spent. From this national funding, Medway Council has

been allocated £7,648,146. Expenditure against this grant will be carefully monitored and the Finance division have set up a range of cost centres to capture and record this spend.

- 2.3 The Chief Executive is requested to approve the addition of this funding to the 2020/21 revenue budget under urgency powers.

### 3. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
That grant funding is insufficient to cover the additional costs arising from COVID19.	Whilst significant, the grant may still not be sufficient to cover the costs of maintaining statutory services for vulnerable people, including protecting staff, support for the social care provider market, safeguarding vulnerable children and adults and responding to an the increased number of families presenting as homeless or vulnerable people rough-sleeping.	Systems and processes have been put in place to capture and monitor expenditure directly incurred in response to COVID-19. All major spend is being recorded in the risk / decision logs and agreed by either Tactical or Strategic Command.	CII

### 4. Financial implications

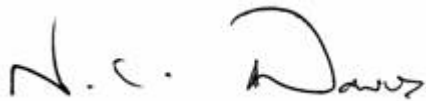
- 4.1 The financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

### 5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented national and global event requiring urgent intervention by State and Local Authorities. The use of urgency powers will enable a fast and effective response by the Council and is in entirely line with the Constitutional provisions for urgent decision making.

**6. Decision by the Chief Executive**

- 6.1 That the Chief Executive (using urgency powers (in place of referring this matter to Full Council)) agrees to add £7,648,146 to help the Council to deal with the impacts of coronavirus, funded from grant provided by Central Government, to the 2020/21 revenue budget.
- 6.2 The use of these urgency provisions will be reported to Full Council on 16 July 2020 for information.



(signed) .....

13 May 2020  
(date)

Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Lead officer contact

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