



## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE USING URGENCY POWERS**

**9 OCTOBER 2020**

### **ADDITIONS 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 government grant funding 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 Revenue Budget. 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 and Co-operative Group) to agree the additions to the revenue budget and capital programme funded from grant provided by Central Government as set out in Section 3 of this report. The use of these urgency provisions will be reported to Full Council on 21 January 2021 for information.

#### **2. Additional funding allocations**

- 2.1. On 10 August the Secretary of State for Education wrote to local transport authorities to issue the Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant determination. The grant is to fund additional transport capacity primarily needed due to the impact of social distancing rules on public transport, for the period September 2020 to October 2020 half term. The determination letter states that "The position beyond this time will be kept under review based on the social distancing guidance in operation for public transport along with the information we are requesting from the Local Transport Authorities to monitor the use of this spend and demand for additional transport capacity at a local level". Medway's allocation has been confirmed as £241,824.

- 2.2. On 25 August the Education Secretary announced the Wellbeing for Education Return programme to be run by mental health experts, aiming to help improve how they respond to the emotional impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their students and staff. Grant funding has been allocated “to recruit local experts to deliver the training programme to nominated staff in schools and colleges, and provide advice to school leaders through to March 2021”. Medway’s allocation is £36,594.
- 2.3. As part of the ‘Everyone In’ initiative, approximately 15,000 people in the UK who were sleeping rough, in unsafe communal settings or at imminent risk of rough sleeping were placed into emergency accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Next Steps Accommodation Programme is intended to provide support for local authorities and their partners to prevent these people from returning to the streets. On 17 September the short term funding allocations for individual authorities were announced and Medway’s allocation is £233,959.
- 2.4. On 22 September the Prime Minister announced additional funding for the Police and local authorities to support additional compliance and enforcement activities for the Covid-19 restrictions. The Compliance and Enforcement Grant funding is ringfenced for compliance and enforcement, and the associated guidance states that “we would encourage local authorities to consider using this funding for the deployment of Covid-19 secure marshals, or their equivalents, to support compliance. Medway’s allocation is £153,367.
- 2.5. On 1 October the Minister of State for Care announced that the Infection Control Fund would be extended to the end of March 2021, with a second allocation of funding being made to local authorities. The purpose of the grant is to provide support to adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission within and between care settings. Medway’s allocation is £2,194,649.
- 2.6. The Chief Executive is requested to approve the addition of the funding set out in this section using urgency powers as follows:
  - 2.6.1. £241,824 added to the Council’s revenue budget in respect of the Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant;
  - 2.6.2. £36,594 added to the Council’s revenue budget in respect of the Wellbeing for Education Return Grant;
  - 2.6.3. £233,959 added to the Council’s revenue budget in respect of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme;
  - 2.6.4. £153,367 added to the Council’s revenue budget in respect of the Compliance and Enforcement Grant.

2.6.5. £2,194,649 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the Infection Control Fund extension; and

### 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 funding provided may still not be sufficient to cover the costs of delivering the schemes required. | Systems and processes have been put in place to capture and monitor expenditure directly incurred in response to COVID-19. | CII         |

### 4. Financial implications

4.1. The financial implications of the additions and reduction of the revenue budget 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 is asked to agree, using urgency powers, to add the following sums:

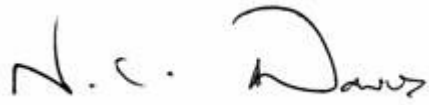
6.1.1. £241,824 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant, as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report;

6.1.2. £36,594 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the Return to Education Grant, as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report;

6.1.3. £233,959 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report;

6.1.4. £153,367 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the Compliance and Enforcement Grant, as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report; and

6.1.5. £2,194,649 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the Infection Control Fund extension, as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report.



(signed) .....

9 October 2020  
(date)

Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Lead officer contact

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