



CHIEF EXECUTIVE USING URGENCY POWERS

23 OCTOBER 2020

ADDITIONS TO THE REVENUE BUDGET

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Leader
Report from: Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer
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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 2 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 14 October the Secretary of State for Education announced a second tranche of the Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant, to provide funding for the second half of the autumn term. Medway's allocation has been confirmed as £58,176.

2.2. On 22 October 2020, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced allocations of a further £919 million of a further non-ringfenced funding to respond to spending pressures. Medway's allocation of the fourth tranche of the Covid-19 Emergency Support for Local Authorities has been confirmed as £6,286,075.

2.3. The Chief Executive is requested to approve the addition of the funding set out in this section using urgency powers as follows:

2.3.1. £58,176 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the second tranche of the Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant; and

2.3.2. £6,286,075 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of Covid-19 Emergency Funding for Local Government.

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

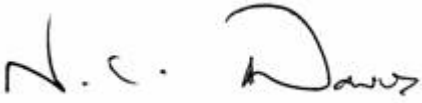
5.1. The Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented national and global event requiring urgent intervention by State and Local Authorities. The use of urgency powers will enable a fast and effective response by the Council and is in entirely line with the Constitutional provisions for urgent decision making.

6. Decision by the Chief Executive

6.1. The Chief Executive is asked to agree, using urgency powers, to add the following sums:

6.1.1. £58,176 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of the second tranche of the Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant, as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report; and

6.1.2. £6,286,075 added to the Council's revenue budget in respect of Covid-19 Emergency Funding for Local Government, as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

(signed) 

28 October 2020

Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Lead officer contact

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