

Notice of KEY Executive Decision (Special Urgency)

Subject Heading:	Contain Outbreak Management Fund – Phase 3
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Damian White, Leader of the Council
SLT Lead:	Mark Ansell, Director of Public Health
Report Author and contact details:	Jane West, Chief Operating Officer 01708 431994 jane.west@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	This report is in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
Financial summary:	This report sets out how the Council plans to use additional funding of an estimated £2,567,280 anticipated to be allocated to it by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to 31 March 2021.
Reason decision is Key	(a) Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more (b) Significant effect on two or more Wards
Date notice given of intended decision:	This is a decision pursuant to para 11 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, made under “special urgency” with the consent of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Key Executive Decision

Relevant OSC:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Is it an urgent decision?	Yes
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	A decision on this report under the “Special Urgency” provision is required to allow the Council to plan and undertake effective strategies for working and service delivery during the current Covid-19 outbreak.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[X]
Places making Havering	[X]
Opportunities making Havering	[X]
Connections making Havering	[X]

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. In response to the Covid pandemic, the Department of Health and Social Care has previously committed to providing a number of grants to reflect the new responsibilities asked of local government:-
 - The first was the Local Authority Covid-19 Test and Trace Service Support Grant of £1,022,848 which was allocated in June 2020
 - The second is the Contain Outbreak Management Fund which was originally allocated at £3 per head of population in October 2020 when Havering was in Tier 2 but was increased to £8 per head to reflect the national lockdown from 4th November to 2nd December. The Council has received a total of £2,076,416 from 11 October 2020 through to 2 December 2020.
2. The Council has subsequently been awarded sums of:-
 - £2 per head of population per month as a Tier 2 authority from 2 December to 15 December
 - £4 per head of population per month since 16 December when it entered Tier 3
3. This funding reflects the need for expenditure to contain the second wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic. A total of £778,656 has been received for the period from 2 December to 29 December 2020.
4. Reports setting out the plans to allocate the estimated total of this funding until 31 January 2021 of £4,961,264 were both approved in December 2020.
5. This report seeks approval for initial allocations of expenditure against the revised funding estimate, taking the estimate for funding through to 31 March 2021.
6. Given the earliest date given by government for the reopening of some schools is 8 March 2021, and given current levels of Covid-19 in London, it is assumed that London will remain in at least Tier 3 until the end of March 2021. As a result, the total grant expected to 31 March 2021 can now be revised to £7,528,544, an increase of £2,567,280 in addition to the amounts previously allocated.
7. A grant of £125,000 has been received in relation to Covid Marshals and a grant of £137,000 is currently being received for every 4 week period from 4 November 2020 for fund support to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.
8. There is also funding of £14 per Lateral Flow Test for Covid-19 which has been made available by the Department for Health and Social Care.
9. The borough has benefitted from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and the national lockdown. It currently has one of the lower rates of Covid infections

Key Executive Decision

in London. The following table sets out the situation in the borough as at 3 February 2021 and compares it to other London Boroughs.

Upper Tier Local Authority	Weekly case rate per 100,000,	7-day change in case rate,	Weekly case rate per 100,000	7-day change in case rate
	All ages	All ages	60+ yrs	60+ yrs
Hounslow	386	-19%	330.7	-23%
Ealing	374.2	-25%	318.4	-26%
Hillingdon	340.2	-28%	292.8	-32%
Brent	328.7	-35%	267.8	-40%
Harrow	283.9	-33%	199.8	-34%
Newham	283.2	-35%	268.9	-39%
Barking and Dagenham	280.4	-39%	248.7	-33%
Sutton	274.3	-25%	237.2	-27%
Merton	265.3	-28%	237.7	-24%
Redbridge	253.9	-37%	227.4	-39%
Hammersmith and Fulham	245.8	-29%	220.3	-41%
Barnet	242.5	-33%	187.1	-36%
Croydon	236.4	-37%	202.9	-38%
Lambeth	233.1	-32%	288.6	-43%
Greenwich	229.6	-33%	216.3	-36%
Enfield	215.1	-41%	193.3	-45%
Lewisham	209.9	-36%	304.3	-27%
Waltham Forest	209.8	-46%	176	-46%
Kingston upon Thames	209	-34%	136.9	-44%
Havering	206.5	-36%	150.3	-34%
Richmond upon Thames	203	-13%	178.3	-30%
Haringey	201	-40%	176.6	-47%
Wandsworth	199	-27%	250.9	-22%
Southwark	192.9	-38%	193.1	-35%
Bexley	190.9	-43%	184.1	-43%
Bromley	176.6	-42%	180.8	-28%
Hackney	173.6	-43%	182.5	-57%
Kensington and Chelsea	168.5	-27%	202.1	-3%
Tower Hamlets	163.2	-43%	198.5	-30%
Islington	155.1	-41%	237.4	-31%
Westminster	153.5	-41%	175.2	-33%
Camden	125.5	-44%	117.9	-44%
City of London	123.4	-25%	91.9	-33%
London	233.6	-34%	217.7	-35%
England	222.7	-25%	174.8	-25%

Key Executive Decision

10. The previous activities approved within the Contain Outbreak Management Fund included:-

- Additional Public Health capacity
- Public Protection Outbreak Control Plan
- Communications and engagement
- The provision of Covid Marshals, beyond just those funded by government
- Support to the government's Test and Trace system
- Local Test and Trace activity
- Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents
- Provision of Council support to the care sector
- Support to the voluntary sector in the borough
- Programme management support including a pilot for asymptomatic mass testing
- Support for the establishment of asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing in locations across the borough
- Pilot Lateral Flow Testing for the self-employed
- Contingency for Lateral Flow Testing

11. The s151 Officer has added, under delegated powers, an additional £40k to the support to the care sector budget to extend the staffing resource to the end of September. This is being funded by the Contain Outbreak Management Fund unallocated in Phase 1.

12. An additional £2,567,280 has been identified for potential allocation to the end of March 2021 bringing the total available funding to £7,528,544. This paper proposes a range of extensions to previous projects and new projects for approval.

13. Local authorities have recently been written to by DHSC to ask for their support for the vaccination programme. The letter set out the funding mechanism as described below. A further report will be brought forward once proposals have been worked up.

'Going forward local authorities will need to agree in advance appropriate, proportionate, additional and unfunded costs at a local level with their respective Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). In turn CCGs can draw down eligible funding centrally via the national programme. Appropriate, proportionate, additional and unfunded eligible costs already incurred at a local level in agreement with CCGs can also be drawn down from central funding. Material historical costs (over £50,000) not previously agreed with the CCG and which are entirely and solely in support of Covid-19 vaccine deployment will be considered on a case by case basis.'

Extensions to existing projects

14. Enhance Environmental Enforcement capacity for 26 weeks

Due to the number of staff shielding and current vacancies within the Tactical Enforcement staffing structure, the team is currently operating at 50% capacity. This only allows for 2 x daytime officers to focus on parks and 2 x night-time officers, on the high footfall areas such as the town centres and shopping parades. It is suggested that this additional resource be acquired for a period of 26 weeks at a cost of £44,300. This would fund an additional two suitably accredited members of agency staff.

15. Two additional Test and Trace staff for Environmental Enforcement

Due to the continuing in surge in work required in response to Covid-19 2.0 FTE Grade 7 Outbreak Control Officers are required for 6 months from 1/4/21 to deal with expanded contact tracing (including bid preparation and programme management) and surge testing. The two additional staff will cost of £44,300.

16. Additional input from the JCU Quality Team dealing with outbreaks in care homes

Havering has far more ASC providers than most other boroughs. Trying to support them with infection control advice and guidance is therefore more onerous than other boroughs. Setting up designated settings to minimise spread has also been more time consuming because we now have 3 such provisions, plus housing flats to support the system, which are all assisting and are being used across 3 boroughs. The team has given support to one of our partner boroughs that has no such provision. This has pulled in dedicated quality team resource. As a result of a bigger care sector we have also had more outbreaks and more IMTs to cover from the same resource. Activities include provider support with outbreaks; SOP development; commissioned pathways; provider payments; provider communications/ forums/ advice and guidance. Personal Assistant control of outbreaks - PPE; communications; guidance. Day centre risk management. Vaccine preparation - roll out; advice and guidance; management of Covid dedicated resources. The total cost of resources being diverted to Covid activities from June 2020 to March 2021 is £145,000.

17. The CEV and PPE Hub

Ongoing running costs for the CEV and PPE Hub, initially at Hornchurch Sports Centre and more recently at Quarles Campus. Estimated cost to November 2021 is £193,300.

18. Extension of the Covid Marshals

To provide 30 Covid Marshals a day, seven days a week, for eight hours a day plus further incidentals of £19,200 until 30 June 2021 at an additional cost of £875,000.

New projects

19. Loss of income at Dorrington Gardens, the Town Hall and Cherry Tree Lane Car Parks

The PCR test sites located at Dorrington Gardens, the Town Hall and Cherry Tree Lane car parks will lead to a loss of income at a cost of £150,000 through to the end of November 2021.

20. Cultural programme of work with CEV individuals

Funding is proposed for a programme of work with CEV to combat loneliness and improve mental health. An allocation is proposed of £30,000 for an eight month programme.

21. An additional team manager for MASH and Assessment

In the week leading up to Christmas (w/b 21st December) the number of contacts received by Children's Services increased by 69% compared to the same week in 2019. The proportion of contacts received from the Police during this time period increased by 24% compared to the same period last year, and contacts received from Health Services more than doubled. Contacts for the reason of domestic violence and mental health (child or parent) more than doubled in the week before Christmas, compared to the same week in 2019. Contacts in relation to alcohol or drug misuse by parents have also increased. The average caseload for a social worker in the Assessment Team has increased from 15.0 (25th September 2020) to 20.6 (31st December 2020). The average caseload nationally in 2019 was 16.9. The cost of this will be: £16,200 for the three month period requested. This is based on 4 days a week at £1,244 per week.

Additional costs to the Council that have only recently been identified

22. Hotels for Rough Sleeping

Additional costs of £400k are likely to have been incurred by the Council by the end of 2020/21 in relation to the housing of rough sleepers in hotels. It has been identified that this is chargeable to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

23. Extension for the Test and Trace Bronze Project Manager

An additional project manager is required for the Test and Trace Bronze Group until the end of November 2021 at a cost of £30k.

24. Additional Communications Staff Support

Key Executive Decision

Additional staff have been deployed onto Covid-19 communications, beyond the original estimate of communications costs. It is estimated that these staff will be required until November 2021 at a cost of £130k.

Recommendations

1. The allocation of resources detailed in this report are agreed.
2. Authority delegated to the Director of Public Health and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council to allocate the funds currently identified as unallocated in Appendix A.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions. 2.1: Functions of the Cabinet.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This decision is required under “Special Urgency” to allow the Council to plan and undertake effective strategies for working and service delivery during the current Covid 19 outbreak. A decision on this report under the “Special Urgency” provision is required to allow the Council to plan and undertake effective strategies for working and service delivery during the current Covid 19 outbreak.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Council has options in relation to the level of support that it provides in each of the services charged to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund – Phase 2 but has no option but to provide the types of support expected of it by central government.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

None

Key Executive Decision

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Jane West

Designation: Chief Operating Officer

Signature:

Date:

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This financial support provided to local authorities is designed to fund the types of activities detailed in this report.

Pursuant to Part 3 of the Constitution – paragraph 2.1, Cabinet retains the responsibility for the allocation and control of financial resources, to determine the priorities in the use of these resources.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The total new grant funding available to the Council for its own activity is anticipated as £2,567,280 through to 31 March 2021. The proposed allocations total £2,058,100 leaving £509,180 yet to be allocated.

This excludes the funding from the DHSC of £14 per test which will mainly fund the events company undertaking Lateral Flow Testing.

Any unused funding can be carried forward.

The expenditure of the grant will need to be managed within the grant regulations for the funding. The areas that will be covered from the funding are outlined in paragraphs 14-23.

The monitoring and management of this grant spend and other COVID19 related expenditure is undertaken as part of the wider council budget monitoring process.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

Given the Coronavirus outbreak, the paramount consideration of the Council is the health and wellbeing of Members and officers. All additional posts proposed for creation in this report will be formally created through the Council's Establishment Control Process. All employees directly affected by the proposals contained in this report will be managed in accordance with the Council's published HR and specific Covid-19 related policies and guidance.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants. Equality and Health considerations will be paramount in all these spending decisions in the spending of these grants.

The population of Havering has the highest proportion of older people, compared to all London Boroughs. Whilst the majority of fatalities and greatest vulnerabilities are within this group, the Council needs to be cognisant of this in, all it's designed approaches.

Havering also has one of the fastest growing non-white ethnic communities, against national indicators, which also needs to be considered, when evaluating potential adverse impacts on different community groups.

Any barriers to accessing health services, in particular digitally excluded groups and groups which experience spoken or written language barriers must be considered, to enable fair and inclusive service provision.

There will be a need to consider these factors, as part of dynamic risk assessments against the design of the delivery solutions and community engagement.

Key Executive Decision

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The coronavirus pandemic represents an unprecedented threat to the health of people worldwide. Within the UK, councils are working to support the approach devised by national government, consistent with the best available evidence, to protect the wider community, but particularly those who are most vulnerable to severe disease and the worst outcomes including death and prolonged if not permanent disability. The paper sets out how the additional funding provided by central government to support these efforts will be deployed. The spending plan is consistent with the Council's existing outbreak control plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Councillor Damian White

Cabinet Portfolio held: Leader of the Council

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: 18/02/2021

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Committee Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____

Key Executive Decision

Appendix A

Activities to be funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund – Phase 3

Project	Description	£
Enhance Environmental Enforcement capacity for 26 weeks	Due to the number of staff shielding and current vacancies within the Tactical Enforcement staffing structure, the team is currently operating at 50% capacity. This only allows for 2 x daytime officers to focus on parks and 2 x night-time officers, on the high footfall areas such as the town centres and shopping parades. It is suggested that this additional resource be acquired for a period of 26 weeks. This would fund an additional two suitably accredited members of agency staff.	44,300
Two additional Test and Trace staff for Environmental Enforcement	Due to the continuing in surge in work required in response to Covid-19 2.0 FTE Grade 7 Outbreak Control Officers are required for 6 months from 1/4/21 to deal with expanded contact tracing (including bid preparation and programme management) and surge testing. The two additional staff will cost of £44,300.	44,300

Key Executive Decision

Additional input from the JCU Quality Team dealing with outbreaks in care homes	Havinging has far more ASC providers than most other boroughs. Trying to support them with infection control advice and guidance is therefore more onerous than other boroughs. Setting up designated settings to minimise spread has also been more time consuming because we now have 3 such provisions, plus housing flats to support the system, which are all assisting and are being used across 3 boroughs – and in fact has given support to one of our partner boroughs that has no such provision. This has pulled in dedicated quality team resource. It also true that as a result of a bigger care sector we have had more outbreaks and more IMTs to cover from the same resource. Activities include provider support with outbreaks; SOP development; commissioned pathways; provider payments; provider comms/ forums/ advice and guidance. PA control of outbreaks - PPE; comms; guidance. Day centre risk management. Vaccine prep; roll out; advice and guidance; management of covid dedicated resources	145,000
Food	Potential requirements for food at the Hub	12,000
The CEV and PPE Hub from June to December 2020	Actual costs for PTS and SLM	5,300
The CEV and PPE Hub from January 2021	Monthly charge for PTS support	176,000
Extension of the Covid Marshals to 30 June 2021	To provide 30 Covid Marshals a day, seven days a week, for eight hours a day plus further incidentals of £19,200	875,000
Loss of income at Dorrington Gardens, the Town Hall and Cherry Tree Lane car parks	Loss of income while PCR testing unit is in place, assumed to be the end of November 2021	150,000
Funding for a programme of work with CEV individuals on wellbeing	Funding for a proposed programme of work with CEV individuals to reduce loneliness and improve mental health.	30,000

Key Executive Decision

An additional team manager for MASH and Assessment	In the week leading up to Christmas (w/b 21st December) the number of contacts received by Children's Services increased by 69% compared to the same week in 2019. The proportion of contacts received from the Police during this time period increased by 24% compared to the same period last year, and contacts received from Health Services more than doubled. Contacts for the reason of domestic violence and mental health (child or parent) more than doubled in the week before Christmas, compared to the same week in 2019. Contacts in relation to alcohol or drug misuse by parents have also increased. The average caseload for a social worker in the Assessment Team has increased from 15.0 (25th September 2020) to 20.6 (31st December 2020). The average caseload nationally in 2019 was 16.9. The cost of this will be: £16,200 for the three month period requested. This is based on 4 days a week at £1,244 per week.	16,200
Hotels for Rough Sleepers	Additional costs of £400k are likely to have been incurred by the Council by the end of 2020/21 in relation to the housing of rough sleepers. It has been identified that this is chargeable to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.	400,000
Additional project management support	An additional project manager is required for the Test and Trace Bronze Group until the end of November 2021.	30,000
Additional communications costs	Additional staff have been deployed onto Covid-19 communications, beyond the original estimate of communications costs. It is estimated that these staff will be required until November 2021.	130,000
Total of new bids		2,058,100