

Local Authority Compliance and Enforcement Grant Activity;
including COVID-19 secure marshals or equivalents

Introduction

This report sets out the types of eligible compliance and enforcement activity which local authorities can choose to use the funding for. Although not mandatory, the government has requested the deployment of COVID-19 secure marshals, or their equivalents, to support compliance with social distancing in public places. These officers would have no enforcement and should instead engage, explain and encourage best practice and national COVID-19 secure guidance.

Eligible compliance and enforcement activities

The funding made available is ringfenced for any activity which will support compliance and enforcement of measures to control the spread of COVID-19 across individuals, businesses and in the community.

Eligible activities include:

- *Practical support to aid and encourage compliance, such as dedicated staff in public areas, business support, or support for individuals:*
 - *COVID-19 secure marshals, or equivalents such as wardens, stewards or ambassadors (further guidance is set out below).*
 - *Any staff costs, training or overtime costs associated with this activity, including any staff from the forthcoming Environmental Health Officer register.*
 - *Associated administrative costs.*
- *Measures to aid public and business awareness and understanding of regulations and guidance:*
 - *Dissemination of the COVID-19 guidance, including where additional local restrictions are in place.*
 - *Promotional activity, e.g. sharing of good practice, signage, advertising.*
 - *Educational campaigns.*
 - *Engagement or tailored communications to sectors or groups.*
- *Any activity associated with enforcement of COVID-19 regulations or guidance:*
 - *Any staff costs, training or overtime costs associated with the work of local authority compliance and enforcement functions.*
 - *Any ancillary or additional costs associated with issuing prohibition notices, fixed penalty notices or taking forward criminal proceedings.*

Proposals for Birmingham

Attached at the Appendix is a list of proposed projects (and numbers for reference) with costings that may assist in the control of the spread of Covid19 and meeting the parameters of the grant. The following is a brief description of the projects to be developed:

Covid Marshalls (Project 1, 2 & 3)

These are officers who have no powers other than powers of persuasion, can be used to ask people to conform with national rules and help others to do so. They can promote social distancing and encourage public compliance with COVID-19 public health measures; educate and explain COVID-19 Secure guidelines in the public realm and for business premises; identify and support businesses and premises not following guidelines, escalating as appropriate; directing pedestrians and managing pedestrian one-way systems; guiding pedestrians through exit and entry points; checking and promoting visibility of COVID-19 Secure messaging; handing out face coverings and hand sanitiser.

Allowing the officers to give out various face masks and sanitisers is a good “Ice-breaker” and is likely to ease the interaction with the public and potential antagonisms reported elsewhere. At this stage it is proposed to ask the BIDs to oversee the deployment of this resource but to ask them to operate across their area not solely in the BiD area. To facilitate this, it is proposed to supply bicycles to increase the area covered. They can be called Covid Marshalls, Wardens, Champions or any other name.

University (Project 4)

It is proposed to invest in the Universities to self-regulate and promote covid safety messages in Halls of Residence and social groups. Similar to above these officers should be drawn from the university campus and would pay particular attention to supporting the fresher years and advising on covid safe measures.

Faith Groups (Project 5)

As above, we would seek to engage with the faith groups to not only support advice in the faith setting but also in some of the sectors following on from these life events (wedding and funerals/wakes). We would particularly like to see advice in Covid security to protect the elderly who wish to attend places of worship.

Enforcement Officers and Supervisors etc. (Project 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10)

With the increasing enforcement and compliance checks, there is a need to work over weekends there and increase the employee base to meet the new demands. Accordingly, money has been identified for 12 officers and 3 supervisors to co-ordinate enforcement inspections and joint patrols with the Police. This may include joint

inspections or follow up work arising from inspections undertaken by the Police or ourselves independently. IT and PPE will need to be purchased for these officers. We will also appoint an administrator to co-ordinate returns and submit all the data to government to enable grant monies to be drawn down.

Isolation Compliance Visits (Project 11)

Currently PHE, through track and trace, advise when people are required to self-isolate either as a positive case or as a contact. Currently no checks are undertaken to ensure that people are isolating although there is a fixed penalty for not doing so. It is proposed to work with The Director of Public Health and WM Police to undertake directed patrols to ensure people do isolate.

Vehicle Hire & Letter drops (Project 12 & 13)

It will be necessary to provide transport in some circumstances to enable officers to undertake visits in a covid safe manner. For instance, joint patrols with the police may include attending with 15 officers in a van. Officers may wish to reduce risks from Covid by using separate transport.

There will be a need to send out information from time to time to business sectors. This has identified monies for undertaking this type of work.

Web and Social Media (Project 14)

Monies have been identified for increasing our web presence. Advice can be put on to the web pages and training videos on safe use of PPE could be created and uploaded onto publicly accessible platforms. This Should be commissioned via professional production companies.

Signage etc. (Project 15)

Monies have been set aside for any forms of advertising campaigns, roadside, parks, hostels and high rise where there is a need to communicate messages on Covid Safety. This includes the hiring of electronic signage production of art and signs/banners.

Park Marshalls

These marshals are to encourage safe use of the city's parks for organised sport and general play. They too can give advice on the Rule of 6 and access monies for covid safety and advice. They could also be used for cleaning children's play equipment more regularly.

Reporting and metrics

To understand how this funding is supporting local authorities with compliance and enforcement costs as the situation evolves, government ask local authorities to ensure that spend under this grant is recorded under “**Other – lockdown compliance and reopening costs**” in MHCLG’s Local authority COVID-19 financial management information survey.

The local authority section 151 officer will be required to certify that any expenditure using this grant was used for the purposes of compliance and enforcement activity.

A light touch qualitative, and where possible quantitative, report to provide detail of the activity funded using this grant and impact on compliance on COVID-19 secure regulations/guidance in your area will be requested from all local authorities in receipt of funding. This will be issued at the 3-month interval following allocation of funding. Government will write to local authorities with further detail of reporting requirements.

Proposed costings for Projects

				Running Total		
	Staffing	Project	Cost	£889,000.00	Comment	
1	BIDs	24	Covid Marshalls	£201,600.00	£687,400.00	12 Bids 2 people for 12 weeks (£8,400 each for 12 weeks)
2	BIDs		Covid Marshals Tabards & PPE & Free Mask (hand outs)	£25,000.00	£662,400.00	
3	BIDs	30	Bicycles for Covid Marshalls	£15,000.00	£647,400.00	Cost of bicycle and cycling PPE @£500 each
4	University		University's	£80,000.00	£567,400.00	8 University's @£10k each
5	Faith		Faith Group Covid Champions	£30,000.00	£537,400.00	
6	Env Health	12	12 Enforcement Officers for Env Health	£126,000.00	£411,400.00	
7	Env Health	3	3 Supervisors/managers for EH (include nights)	£31,500.00	£379,900.00	
8	Env Health		Body Cams and other enforcement equipment	£68,000.00	£311,900.00	
9	Env Health		IT and PPE	£20,000.00	£291,900.00	
10	Env Health	1	Admin Support for metrics	£8,400.00	£283,500.00	
11	Env Health		Isolation Visits (check that people are quarantining)	£21,800.00	£261,700.00	
12	Env Health		Vehicle Costs (Hire)	£14,400.00	£247,300.00	£200 *6 vehicles *12 weeks
13	All		letter drops & advice	£30,000.00	£217,300.00	
14	Press		Web and Social Media	£50,000.00	£167,300.00	
15	Parks		Signage: for Parks and roadside adverts & Pop Ups: High Rise Blocks	£100,000.00	£67,300.00	Pop up tents, Signage, Flags, Adverts on roadside (Electronic signs)
16	Parks	8	8 Park Marshalls	£67,200.00	£100.00	
			Balance =	£0.00	£100.00	
			HR Processes - Recruitment critical to spend			
			Spend under this grant is recorded under “Other – lockdown compliance and reopening costs			