

Covid-19 Decision Log – w/c 26th July 2021, Published 10 August 2021

Item No	Key Decision	Decision Maker	Decision	Reason for decision	Total Value of the decision and Budget Implication (500k revenue or 1 mill capital)	Are 2 or more Wards Impacted?	Date of Decision	Members briefed
1.	Yes	Director Public Health	That the council will continue to support the DHSC Community Testing programme from 1 July 2021 and will cover the forecast £290,000 funding shortfall for the 3 months from 1 July to 30 September from the existing Test & Trace budget.	The case rate across the city continues the rise, but we have also seen an increase in LFD testing rates as well, and the council's continued involvement in the Community Testing programme is considered to be key to encouraging testing within the city.	Funding Shortfall £289,398	Yes	30.06.2021	Leader Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
2.	Yes	Director Digital & Customer Services	As part of the COVID response to supporting businesses central government announced the Restart Grant scheme during the March 21 Budget. All Local Authorities have been provided with a grant fund which for Birmingham total's £55,262,457 which is to be awarded to businesses within the city which are registered for business rates and meet a specific criteria based around the rating system and their nature of business. This report seeks authority to accept the Restart Grant and defray it in accordance with grant the conditions and Government guidance pertaining to the Restart Grant Scheme.	The Restart Grant will enable beneficiaries to mitigate the effects of and recover from the economic impact that has been caused by Covid 19.	The grants are fully funded by BEIS and are estimated to total £55.2m in value.	Yes	06.05.2021	Deputy Leader
3.	Yes	Managing Director, City Operations	To contribute a sum of £5,000 to mortuary freezer space provided by UHB to build resilience in the system for winter pressures and pandemic	Failing to provide this space may lead to required freezer space being unavailable in a third wave of the pandemic or seasonal flu outbreaks. Contribution given on basis the City Council can use the facility if public mortuary provision is full.	£5,000 met from existing budget (one-off payment).	Yes	01.07.2021	Cabinet Member Neighbourhoods

4.	Yes	Director Public Health	<p>To provide details of the outcome of the procurement process undertaken for the Covid-19 Outreach Vaccinations Engagement & Support Service and seeks approval to acceptance of the quotation.</p> <p>The contract award is for a primary contract period of 4 weeks commencing 12th July 2021 (with an option to extend for a further period of up to 8 weeks subject to satisfactory performance and budgetary availability). If the contract extension is taken up, the contract would end on 02/09/21.</p>	<p>Within wards with the lowest uptake of the vaccines across Birmingham, there are many communities where people remain hesitant with rates comparable to national data when adjusted for demographics and Indices of Multiple Deprivation.</p> <p>Significant activity has been undertaken to address hesitancy working with community groups, faith leaders, local councillors, and local clinicians to provide reassurance to the local community, however uptake remains low. Specifically, within Birmingham, there is a need to target specific groups and for an understanding of health inequalities across the city.</p> <p>For example, vaccination uptake levels in West Birmingham wards are below the target rate of</p>	£189,180	Yes	08.07.2021	Leader & Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
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5.	Yes	Director Digital & Customer Services	<p>The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) introduced the Self Isolation Payment (SIP) scheme in September 2020. Since 28th September 2020, eligible individuals are entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment (main scheme) or a Discretionary Support Payment (secondary scheme) of £500 to support people on low incomes who are unable to work from home, if they are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and, will lose income as a result.</p> <p>Payments are designed to help ensure people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts self-isolate for the required period to stop the onward spread of the virus. Councils had to have arrangements in place to administer payments by 12th October 2020. People told to self-isolate on or after 28th September will be able to make a backdated claim for a payment. The scheme was initially due to end on 31st January 2021. Following multiple scheme changes and extensions it is now due to end on June 30th</p>	Mandatory	<p>SIP Fund up to April = £1,281,500 (Mandatory scheme) SIPD Fund up to April = £2,493,000 (Discretionary scheme) For administration = £692,000 Further payments will be due for the period May to June 2021</p>	Yes	06.05.2021	Deputy Leader
6.	Yes	Managing Director, City Operations	<p>The report summarises the Council's position in relation to its contract with Places Leisure Ltd (PLL) for the operation of 2 community sport facilities affected by COVID-19. It sets out the options for the Council in supporting the provider through the pandemic and recommends that their application for supply chain support measures is supported in line with the emergency process set out by the Business and Economic Recovery Cell.</p> <p>The supplier relief programme seeks to utilise open book accounting to make our suppliers in a "no better, no worse" position without the delays and costs associated with lengthy contractual disputes, while at the same time providing our leisure operators with the confidence to be able to respond to the government announcements</p>	<p>During the 2020/21 financial year Central Government announced on several occasions the temporary closure and/or associated operational restrictions of all gyms and leisure centres as part of its COVID-19 response to stop the spread of infection. The Health Protection (Coronavirus Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020 and subsequent related legislation is interpreted by leisure operators nationwide as an effective 'change of law' in contractual terms. The Council has not accepted this position contractually, but this supplier relief payment is recommended as the most economical and outcome to avoid the alternative of all resulting liabilities falling to the Council.</p>	£213,299	Yes	28.06.2021	Leader Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care

		<p>on re-opening and operating under Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Having followed this process previously PLL were awarded £194,545 for the period 1st April thru 31st June 2020 (Quarter 1), £223,550 for the period 1st July thru 30th September (Quarter 2), and £218,100 for the period 1st October thru 31st December (Quarter 3). This decision concerns PLL's claim for the period 1st January thru 31st March 2021 (quarter 4) and is for £213,299.</p>					
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