

## CABINET

11 SEPTEMBER 2020

### REFERENCE REPORT FROM THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### A.1 SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL DURING THE PEAK OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SO FAR AS THEY RELATE TO THE PANDEMIC AND THE RESPONSE TO IT

(Report prepared by Keith Durran and Ian Ford)

#### BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2020 (Minute 61 refers) the Committee reviewed the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in so far as they related to the pandemic and the response to it.

The following was a list of those decisions and the supporting papers were available through the links created by the list:

Discretionary Business Support Scheme ref: 4989  
Write-Off of Leisure Centre Membership Fees Income for May 2020 ref: 4848  
Business Rates Covid-19 Grants Scheme ref: 4733  
Council Tax Hardship Scheme ref: 4732  
Write-Off of Leisure Facilities Income ref: 4731  
Tendring Community Fund - Allocation of £1,000 to Members ref: 4730  
CAROS Scheme - Waiver of Rents ref: 4728

Members were given the opportunity to ask any questions, which in turn were responded to by the Assistant Director (Finance and IT) & Section 151 Officer.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET

Following discussion, the Committee **RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET** that:

- a) the swift decision to use of part of the Tendring Community Fund to provide for Ward Councillors to nominate organisations to receive grants to enable them to respond to the Covid19 pandemic locally, within an overall limit of £1,000 per Ward Councillor, be recognized as being a success.
- b) the approval of the publicly announced intention to write-off the Leisure Centre Membership Fees for June etc be regularised.
- c) the waiver of rents for those within the CAROS Scheme be extended to the end of August 2020 at least.

#### LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

**Comments**

*“The Leader of the Council welcomes the positivity of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on their review of the urgent decisions taken during COVID-19 pandemic, which continues with the One Council approach which has been adopted during this time. In particular, the Committee is thanked for their acknowledgement of the success of the £1000 allocation to each Ward Councillor from the Tending Community Fund to support their local areas. A Portfolio Holder Working Party was being established prior to the COVID-19 outbreak to review the scope of the future use of the Tending Community Fund and it is important this work resumes as part of the Council’s recovery plans.*

*It is noted the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in June however for completeness, it is confirmed that formal decisions were made to approve the write-off of Leisure Centre Membership fees for June and July. In respect of the CAROS Scheme a review can be undertaken as part of the Back to Business Strategy.”*

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

**That the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the comments of the Leader of the Council, in response thereto, be noted.**