

<b>Key Decision Required:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>In the Forward Plan:</b>	<b>No</b>
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## REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS

**NOVEMBER 2020**

**A. Distribution of funds from the Local authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies**  
(Report prepared by Russell Cole)

### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To approve the allocation of funds to local community groups in order to support the provision of emergency food supplies throughout Operation Shield.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Council has been awarded £30,390 from Essex County Council from the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies Fund.

Throughout lock down, the Tendring Shield Helpline made several requests to key partners for emergency food supplies, often whilst residents were waiting for the food parcels from Government to be sent through, or where they were not able to access online shopping options, or had special dietary needs such as a need for ready meals.

In order to support the groups and to maintain the strong partnership working with those groups, permission is sought to re allocate the funds to them. The funds may be used to assist with the cost of the food deliveries already incurred, and for future costs if there is a further need.

The local groups were selected based on:

The level of support provided during lock down

The ability to provide further support if required

Locality – making sure there was an even, board and impartial spread of support across the areas of the District as practicable, based on the relatively small amount offered for bidding by Essex County Council.

Furthermore, that the Council maintain a stock of food shopping vouchers that can be quickly distributed in order to provide money for those who are required to self-isolate, but do not meet the requirements of the self-isolation payments. In the event that these are not used, they will be donated to food banks

The latest information details we have over 8500 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people in Tendring along with a wider cadre who may be required to shield who could benefit from the support that this initiative provides.

#### Proposed Allocation of Funds:

Tendring Eldercare	£6,000
Jaywick Resource Centre	£4,000
Harwich Helps	£4,000

Community Voluntary Service	£5,000
Local food Banks	£3,000
Food shopping vouchers	£8,390

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships (Councillor Lynda McWilliams) approves the allocation of funds as stated above.**

## PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

### DELIVERING PRIORITIES

- The allocation of the fund will ensure that the community groups, that were so heavily relied upon previously are financially recompensed for their provision of food during Operation Shield and are in a position to assist again should it be required.
- The most vulnerable residents, of all ages, in our District are protected from hunger

### FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

#### Finance and other resources

The allocation of funds will help to ensure local community groups continue to be viable

#### Risk

There is a risk that the money allocated is not spent in relation to the stated objectives. This will be mitigated by the signing of a Service Level Agreement with the option for the Council to claim back any funds used inappropriately. The local community groups listed are established and trusted partners.

### LEGAL

Detailed in the draft Local Framework Guide recently forwarded to Local Authorities to assist in planning for future Shielding measures, it details:

‘ Under a localised model, councils will be responsible for ensuring CEV individuals have access to food and essentials, and that their basic support needs are met. Free delivery of medicines will continue to be provided through the community pharmacy network.

A support model will need to be set up quickly to respond to changes in the shielding guidance and be sufficiently flexible to account for wider contexts (e.g. restrictions on the wider population) or updates to those who are considered CEV and advised to shield, as our understanding of COVID-19 continues to improve.

### OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of Crime and Disorder, Equality and Diversity, Health Inequalities, Consultation/Public Engagement and Wards; and any significant issues are set out below.**

Ward Members have been advised of this report and no comments have been received from them for inclusion.

The timing of this support is beneficial as it coincides with the step up to Tier 2 Covid measures and the concerning daily confirmed cases figure which puts Tendring at the top of districts in Essex most effective in the county and high in the region.

This support is a small but worthy step to show support, partnership and a further offer of support to those community groups, centred around the area of volunteering and food provision that are expected to be drawn on for further support as the Covid crisis progresses.

I warmly and wholeheartedly support this initiative and would recommend it to senior decision makers.

## **PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **BACKGROUND**

Essex County Council were awarded £ 1,422,336.28 from the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies Fund. Of this funding, £1.193m will be used by Essex in respect of its welfare duties as a county council and so will leave £229,337 to be distributed to district, boroughs and city councils, allocated based on the following criteria:

- Number of referrals received by Essex Welfare Service
- Number of contacts to district hubs
- Index of multiple deprivation

The amount of funding allocated to Tendring was £30,390.

The stated objectives for spending the money was

- use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need
- use the funding from July onwards to meet immediate need and help those who are struggling to afford food and essentials due to COVID-19
- use the funding for existing schemes and other support which deliver the same outcomes and where the need is greatest
- work together with other local authorities to provide support and ensure the funding meets its objectives

When deciding how to help people, you should consider:

- using cash or vouchers where practical - this may reduce pressure on your local partners
- advising and providing information to people to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits - you should decide which approach is suitable in your community

The allocation of the funds to the local community groups, and the purchasing of vouchers for the Council to allocate should the need arise, meets the above stated objectives.

### **CURRENT POSITION**

The spending analysis attached was sent to Essex County Council for approval and this was granted. Payment of the £30,390 has now been received by the Council in the shape of a BACS payment which arrived a short while ago.

The intention is to establish account numbers for the relevant groups, transfer the money and secure the purchase of vouchers as detailed above.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION**

Closely linked to Shielding support measures and the future national picture which is expected to place greater responsibility for delivery, support and management at a Local Authority level.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Emergency Assistance Grant Spending Plan**