

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods (for agenda item 4 -Local Covid Support Grant Scheme (LCSG))
Date	21 July 2021
Present	Councillors Ayre and Craghill
Apologies	

27. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have had in respect of business on the agenda. They confirmed they had none.

28. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 12 July be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member.

29. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

30. Local Covid Support Scheme (LCSS)

Officers provided an update to the report noting that an Officer Decision had been made by officers in consultation with the Executive Members to support the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme. The HAF scheme would operate for 4 weeks in the summer holiday, so the Local Covid Support Grant Scheme (LCSG) would supply funding for Free School Meal Vouchers in the remaining 2 weeks of the summer holiday at a cost of £100k from the LCSG. This decision was taken due to preparation being required ahead of the impending summer holidays. Executive Members noted the decision and the update to the report.

Members considered the proposed scheme to distribute monies from the LCSG. Officers noted that swift action was required to ensure the Council

meet the deadline for distribution set out by Central Government. Officers noted that the scheme would contain an application process due to the Council not holding all relevant information that the scheme required, to pay out the grants to individuals already identified as being in need. It was confirmed that the Council would approach individuals in need such as those on Council Tax Support directly to encourage applications.

Members discussed how the Council could ensure take up of the grant and recommended that details be shared with Ward Councillors to promote, it was also confirmed that check points would be kept on the scheme by officers to ensure the grants were being distributed. For those that the Council would contact directly about applying, discussion took place on what communications would be in place and officers noted that a range of communications would be used to promote the scheme including text messages. Finally Members requested that a full range information of available support in the city be provided to those that apply to the scheme.

Resolved:

- i. Noted the top slice of £100k from the new LCGS grant for free school meal vouchers during the remaining two weeks of the school summer holidays (as outlined in paragraph 10 of the report);
- ii. Approved the methodology outlined in paragraph 16 of the report for allocating the remaining grant to families identified as in need using the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme entitlement criteria;
- iii. Approved the continuation of the existing scheme for anyone not on CTS but requires help with food and bills (paragraph 18 of the report).

Reason: To ensure government funding is utilised in the fairest and most direct way to support as many families as possible affected by the financial impacts of the Covid19 Pandemic.

Councillor Ayre, Executive Member for Finance and Performance
[The meeting started at 12.00 pm and finished at 12.15 pm].