

FINANCE, INVESTMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION – 9 OCTOBER 2020

LOCAL AUTHORITY TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS POLICY AND DISCRETIONARY TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENTS POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In response to the Coronavirus, COVID-19, the government announced that from 28 September 2020 there is a legal requirement for individuals to self-isolate who test positive for COVID-19 and have been requested to do so by the NHS. The government stated there would be support for those people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are having to self-isolate and are unable to work from home.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The government have provided a lump sum payment of £500 to anyone who meets certain eligibility criteria. The scheme runs from 28 September 2020 to 31 January 2021, with Local Authorities expected to start to make payments from 12 October 2020.
- 2.2 To be eligible for the payment, someone must have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Trust because they have tested positive for coronavirus, or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, be employed or self-employed, are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, and be in receipt of a specified state benefit.
- 2.3 Where someone meets all the above criteria, except not being in receipt of a specified state benefit, there is a discretionary scheme available to those on a low income and in financial hardship. Government funding is £35,662.14.
- 2.4 We will check the NHS Test and Trace system and internal systems to confirm eligibility. We will support those people that need assistance with completing the form or those who are unable to claim online.
- 2.5 Where we provide a holistic approach and signpost applicants to other support if appropriate.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council as any payment awarded is fully funded by Central Government.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no environmental, crime or disorder implications.

5. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the Test and Trace polices are approved.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

7.1 I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.

Signed: CLLR J HERON

Date: 9 OCTOBER 2020

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers

Test and Trace Support Payment
Policy
Discretionary Test and Trace Payment
Policy

Date on which notice of this Decision – **9 October 2020**