



# WELWYN HATFIELD

## OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014 RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

1. **SERVICE AREA**

2. **CASE REFERENCE**

3. **DECISION TITLE**

4. **AUTHORITY TO TAKE THE DECISION** **(tick)**

This decision has been taken under a specific express authorisation

This decision has been taken under a general authorisation

The effect of the decision is to:

(a) grant a permission or licence

(b) affect the rights of an individual

(c) award a contract or incur expenditure which materially affects the Council's financial position

5. **DETAILS OF THE DECISION MAKING OFFICER**

6. Name of decision making Officers

Job titles

Signatures  

Date this decision was taken

## 7. DETAILS OF THE DECISION

### Decision taken

This report seeks delegated authority from the Leader of the Council to continue with the Council's Test and Trace Support discretionary payment scheme for residents on low income who need to self-isolate and cannot work from home. This discretionary scheme is for those who may not qualify under the Government's mandatory scheme.

The Test and Trace Support Discretionary Scheme provides a £500 payment aimed at those who are forced to self-isolate for 10 days. Payment are made in exceptional circumstances and will only apply to those experiencing severe financial difficulties, resulting from having been told to self-isolate and are earning less than £500 per week after tax and National Insurance contributions. This applies to those who have either tested positive for coronavirus or are close contacts of someone who tested positive.

The Government funding for our discretionary scheme has been spent but we continue to receive applications from residents requiring support and we have acquired additional funding of £129,000 to support these individuals. This funding was agreed by a key group of public sector partners across public health, NHS, Police, and environmental health officers. This extra money was approved by the Health Protection Board after the county's 10 district and borough councils had already distributed the previous grants from Central Government

This decision will take immediate effect and will allow officers to continue to deal with any claims for £500 Test and Trace Support Payment where a resident qualifies under the Council's discretionary scheme.

The scheme will close once funding has been exhausted.

### Reasons

This payment is designed to support people on low incomes, if they will lose income because of self-isolating, and to encourage them to get tested if they have symptoms. This is important to help stop the transmission of COVID-19 and avoid further economic and societal restrictions.

Alternative options considered and reasons for their rejection (if any)

Not deliver a scheme – this would not be acceptable – residents need support and the council would be heavily criticised for not making use of the funding available.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED TO INFORM THE DECISION

Background Papers	Location
Delegation of decisions in relation to the scheme – “Covid-19 Financial Impact Update 2020/21” - Cabinet 19 May 2020	<a href="https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&amp;MId=1097&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&amp;MId=1097&amp;Ver=4</a>

## 9. DETAILS OF ANY MEMBER(S) CONSULTED

Councillor Tony Kingsbury (Leader)  
Councillor Duncan Bell (Executive Member for Resources)  
Councillor Bernard Sarson (Executive Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Partnerships)

In the case of a decision made under specific express authorisation, the name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest

n/a

## 10. DETAILS OF ANY OFFICER(S) CONSULTED

Client Services Support Manager

## 11. OPINION OF DECISION MAKING OFFICER AS TO CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT INFORMATION

In my opinion this record and/or background papers contain confidential/exempt information and the material is therefore not to be placed on the website or disclosed to the public

## 12. ACTION FOLLOWING THE DECISION

Date of publication

5 February 2021