

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Executive

14 March 2023

Community Support from the Containment Outbreak Management Fund and Emergency Food, Fuel & Energy Grant Scheme 2023/24

Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Sarah Jane Croke Support and Safeguarding
Strategic Director/Head of Service	Sally Kipping (HR, Performance and Communications)
Report Author:	Jayne Boitoult – Community Partnership Officer
Key Decision:	Yes
Wards Affected:	All
Date signed off:	21 February 2023

Summary and purpose

During the recent 2020 pandemic Central Government allocated funding for the County of Surrey which was calculated on the basis of the local alert level at that time and on a per population head basis. Districts and boroughs were allocated 37.5% of the total County funds. The vehicle for this is the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and the aim was to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health initiatives.

Surrey Heath bid for £882,584.58. Originally the funds were to be spent by 31 March 2023. Following further guidance from Surrey County Council it is confirmed that this fund is extended for a further year until 31 March 2024, and Surrey Heath has a carry forward amount of £280,521 requiring allocation for this period. The paper sets out projects to be supported during this financial year.

The existing Emergency Food Poverty Grant Scheme is scheduled to close from the 31st March 2023, this scheme has provided support to a number of local organisations in helping to retain services, or meeting local need within Surrey Heath. The scheme has a remaining budget of £50,000 and it is proposed to continue the availability of the grants until the 31st March 2024 or whenever the funds are exhausted.

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) the projects be awarded and supported as outlined in paragraph 1.7, with any changes and operational decisions being delegated to the Head of HR, Performance and Communications in consultation with the Support and Safeguarding Portfolio Holder; and
- (ii) the closing date of the existing Emergency Food Poverty Grant Scheme be expended by 12 months to the 31 March 2024 or whenever the funds are exhausted.

1. Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 During the Covid-19 pandemic the Central Government funding for the County of Surrey was calculated on the basis of the local alert level at that time and on a per population head basis. Districts and boroughs were allocated 37.5% of the county funding.
- 1.2 The Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) had been set up to provide funding to local authorities to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health initiatives.
- 1.3 In 2020 the Council bid for £882,584.58, and at that time the funds were to be spent by 31 March 2023.
- 1.4 Surrey County Council have confirmed that the remaining COMF amounts can be carried forward until 31 March 2024, and that Surrey Heath has a carry forward amount of £280,521. This paper sets out proposals to fully utilise the available funds based upon the criteria for this coming financial year.
- 1.5 COMF funding has been used to fund revenue grants in 2023/24, as follows:

Revenue Grants 2023/24 Organisations	Amounts £	Council Ratification
Citizens Advice Surrey Heath	80,000	January 2023 Executive
Voluntary Support North Surrey	20,000	As above
Time to Talk	10,000	As above
Surrey Heath Age Concern	10,000	As above
Camberley and District Job Club	6,000	As above
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership	10,000	As above
Basingstoke Canal Authority	10,000	As above
Coronation Grant Scheme	8,000	February 2023 Executive
Total	£154,000	

- 1.6 The Hope Hub revenue grant of £40,000 is being funded by the Council's Housing Support team so is excluded from the above.

- 1.7 The balance to be awarded is £126,521. It is proposed to allocate it as follows:

Grant Detail	Amount
It is understood that the Work Shop Initiative that successfully operates in Camberley has not secured funding from the DWP for the period post June 2023 and, requires ongoing revenue funds for the period starting from the 1 st July 2023-31 st March 2024, this is 8 months at a cost of £9,000 per month. This covers the full recovery costs for the 2 full time members of staff, 1 part-time member of staff and the apprentice. Should DWP confirm funds, then reallocation will be required.	72,000
Community Support Working Group – banners, literature, sign posting printed information as agreed in the 2023/2024 action plan.	2,000
Supporting the Cost of living events throughout the borough during 2023/2024.	3,000
Xmas Hampers top-up for 2023.	2,000
Support the Hardship Fund held by Citizens Advice Surrey Heath.	10,000
Family Support Team emergency help for when families fall outside of the scope of charitable help and assistance.	5,000
New Charity Enabling Fund for organisations locally (excluding those who already receive revenue grants).	27,521
Introducing the Dementia Alliance Information Centre, working with agencies to linking the information strands together to provide clear directional support and guidance for both families and vulnerable clients.	5,000
Sub-total	126,521
Grand Total	280,521

- 1.8 The existing Emergency Food Poverty Grant Scheme is scheduled to close from the 31st March 2023, this scheme has provided support to a number of local organisations in helping to retain services, or meeting local need with warm banks within Surrey Heath. The scheme has a remaining budget of £50,000 and it is proposed to continue the availability of the grants until the 31st March 2024 or whenever the funds are exhausted. This will ensure that organisations can continue to access support to those who are most vulnerable locally.
- 1.9 This report details that aspect of the plan and recommends Executive support for the recommendation above.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The recommendation supports communities within Surrey Heath, meeting the criteria of this scheme.

3. Proposal and Alternative Options

- 3.1 As outlined in paragraph 1.4 there are sufficient funds available with the COMF (Containment Outbreak Management Fund) carry forward to support the projects outlined.
- 3.2 Using COMF requires funds to be allocated to specific criteria. Therefore all projects will follow the guidance provided in Annex A.
- 3.3 The proposed continuation of the Emergency Food, Fuel and Energy grant scheme has an available budget of £50,000.

4. Contribution to the Council's Five-Year Strategy

- 4.1 This funding and the resultant community events will contribute to the aim to nurture the strong sense of community across the whole borough (Health & Quality of Life).
- 4.2 It will also invest in our towns and our villages helping them to participate in and enjoy a very impactful national event.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 The Community Development team will oversee the grants and ensure that the criteria is met, and they have the capacity to do so.

6. Section 151 Officer Comments:

- 6.1 Any award of grant using Contain Outbreak Management Funding must meet the criteria of the funding as laid down by Government when awarding COMF allocations to local authorities.

7. Legal and Governance Issues

7.1 No issues notified.

8. Monitoring Officer Comments:

8.1 No matters arising.

9. Other Considerations and Impacts

Environment and Climate Change

9.1 No matters arising.

Equalities and Human Rights

9.2 No matters arising.

Risk Management

9.3 No matters arising.

Community Engagement

9.4 This initiative will support and improve community engagement.

Annex A

COMF Criteria

- a. Targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes.
- b. Additional contact tracing.
- c. Enhanced communication and marketing e.g. towards hard-to-reach groups and other localised messaging.
- d. Delivery of essentials for those in self-isolation
- e. Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces.
- f. Harnessing capacity within local sectors (voluntary, academic, commercial).
- g. Extension/introduction of specialist support (behavioural science, bespoke comms).
- h. Additional resource for compliance with, and enforcement of, restrictions and guidance
- i. Measures to support the continued functioning of commercial areas and their compliance with public health guidance.
- j. Funding Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (marginal costs only).
- k. Targeted support for school/university outbreaks.
- l. Community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population.
- m. Support for engagement and analysis of regional areas to assess and learn from local initiatives.
- n. Providing initial support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who are following tier 3 guidance.
- o. Support for rough sleepers.
- p. Anything else specifically agreed with the Director of Public Health.