

**REPORT OF Interim Head of Paid Service**

**To: Community and Resources Committee**

**Subject: Urgency Procedure Report**

**Date: 29 June 2020**

**Reference:**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**For Members to note the urgent decisions recently taken under the Council's Urgency Procedure**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

At the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic the Council's Committees were temporarily suspended. During this time some decisions were needed to be made that would normally of been submitted to the Community & Resources Committee for Councillor consideration.

**2. REPORT**

These decisions were made under the Council's Urgency Procedure and signed off by the Leader and the Chair of Community & Resources.

To comply with the Constitution the decisions need to be reported to the next appropriate Community & Resources Committee explaining the reason for the urgency.

The four Decisions were:

<b>Details of Urgent Matter</b>	<b>Reason for the Urgency</b>
Use of outstanding councillor grants from 2019/20, half from 2020/21 budget, any outstanding 2019/20 NHB and any surplus MCHLG monies for use with our communities during the Covid 19 crisis	The funding was urgently needed in our communities and were unable to hold a C&R meeting for a decision.
Technical Breach of Treasury Management Strategy. Exceeding the balance limit of £8m in the Council's current account due to £36m provided by the Government for Business Support Grants	No choice as money sent direct from Government into TDC bank account and current rules limit does not allow for this unusual and unexpected crisis.
Covid 19 Hardship Support Grant Devon County Council have made available £1m to be divided between the Districts to deliver hardship support to the most economically vulnerable members of our communities. Officers have prepared a Torridge District Council specific Hardship Support Grant Policy that will govern the delivery of a grant scheme and the redistribution of much needed support to the community. The report seek approval for TDC participation in the Hardship support Grant Scheme with DCC and the local delivery of the scheme under the TDC Hardship Support Grant Policy – launching during week commencing 04/05/20.	There was an urgent need in the community for hardship support and there was no scheduled Community and Resources Committee at which we could seek agreement to receive and redistribute the funds that will be provided by Devon County Council.



<p><b>Covid-19 Discretionary Business Support Grant</b>  On the 2 May the Government announced that a new discretionary fund would be made available aimed at small businesses that were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund. We worked with all DCC and the other Devon District Councils to produce a common discretionary business grants policy.</p>	<p>The funding was urgently needed within our Business community and there was no scheduled C&amp;R meeting scheduled at which to seek approval.</p>

### 3. IMPLICATIONS

#### Legal Implications

This report complies with the Council's Constitution

#### Financial Implications

Included in the report

#### Human Resources Implications

none.

#### Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

none

#### Equality/Diversity

Decisions taken to support the vulnerable and to assist local business

#### Risk Management

n/a

#### Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Complies with the Council's constitution.

#### Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

#### Climate Change

Not applicable

#### Ward Member and Lead Member Views

Applicable to the whole of the Council and the Leader was consulted on each urgent decision.



**4. CONCLUSIONS**

The decisions were taken under the Urgency Procedure as the Council's Committees were temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

Councillors note the decisions taken under the Council's Urgency Procedure.

