



Classification	Item No.
Open	

Meeting:	EMERGENCY POWERS GROUP
Meeting date:	9 February 2021
Title of report:	Contain Outbreak Management Fund
Report by:	Councillor Eamon O'Brien, Leader of the Council
Decision Type:	Key Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Council is responsible for the development and implementation of a Local Outbreak Management Plan to manage the transmission of COVID-19 in Bury. The following funding streams have been provided to support delivery. To support Local Authorities, the government has made available funding:

- £8 per head of additional funding for "test, trace and contain activity". This allocation equated to £1.528m for Bury council;
- £4 per head of population per month for upper tier local authorities in Tier 3 as part of the COVID-19 Winter Plan . For Bury this equates to £0.767m per month.

1.2 In total £4.596m is anticipated and local authorities are required to report on a monthly basis to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on how the funding is to be allocated. This report sets out the approach within Bury in response to meeting the outcomes and objectives on which the funding is allocated.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 **Cabinet is asked to approve the plans and the allocation of the funding as set out in the report.**

3 Background

2020/21 Spending Plans

- 3.1 An exercise to identify the required resources to implement the delivery of the above funding has been undertaken. The exercise involved contacting 12 key stakeholders to derive a suite of spending proposals and consideration was made to existing COVID response provision and gaps. The plan has also been considered by the Council's Health Protection Board and reflects the needs of the various partners and stakeholders that are represented on the Board. **Table 1** and **Table 2** set out the thematic expenditure plans.

Table 1

Proposed Allocation of Test, Track and Contain Grant	
Theme	Total (£m)
Community Hubs	0.335
Compliance	0.012
Data and Intelligence	0.047
Health Protection	0.026
Keeping well through COVID	0.865
Revenues and Benefits	0.236
Unallocated	0.007
Grand Total	1.528

- 3.2 Funding is allocated on a thematic basis and follows guidance from MHCLG. The key areas of focus that the funding for the Test, Track and Contain Grant will be used to support:

- **Community Hubs** These have been a central part of the Council's response to Covid and the funding will be used to ensure that this model can continue;
- **Compliance** To support the work underway by the Council to ensure that there is compliance with government requirements, i.e. social distancing and Covid marshals;
- **Data and Intelligence** Additional capacity within the data and intelligence team to ensure the Council is able to provide the relevant data and analysis required to support the Covid response;

- **Health Protection** additional capacity to support the test, track and trace process;
- **Keeping Well through Covid** To support activities aimed at ensuring residents keep well through Covid;
- **Revenues and Benefits** To provide additional capacity to respond to the increase in demand for welfare and benefits support and increased demand for housing benefits linked to homelessness etc.

Table 2

Proposed Allocation of the Contain and Outbreak Management Fund	
Theme	Total (£m)
Community and Voluntary Sector Support	0.025
Compliance	0.482
Data and Intelligence	0.011
Hubs	0.131
Testing	0.092
Other	0.026
Grand Total	767,000

3.3 The key areas of focus that the funding for the Contain and Outbreak Management Fund will be used to support some of the themes previously set out in the report but recognising that there are longer term requirements that need funded. In addition to this there is funding allocated to support:

- **Community and Voluntary Sector** Support to the sector recognising increased demand;
- **Testing** Support for the testing programme and strategy.

External Monitoring Requirements

3.4 As per the condition of receiving financial support from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, Local Authorities are asked to complete a return detailing how funding is currently being allocated. Local authorities are required to complete this return on a rolling monthly basis if they continue to be under Tier 3 or Tier 2 restrictions.

Community impact

There are no community impacts arising from this report.

Equality Impact and considerations:

24. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

25. *The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.*

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Failure to approve the allocation plans would mean that the Council is unable to meet the outcomes and objectives as set out by the government in response to the Covid pandemic.	

Consultation:

Various stakeholder groups have been consulted including partners on the Council's Health Protection Board, the Bury Gold group and the Voluntary sector.

Legal Implications:

Financial Implications:

The cost of the proposals can be met from the funding available.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Background papers:

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

