

Executive Board – 21 September 2021

Subject:	Allocation of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People Lucy Hubber, Director of Public Health
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sally Longford Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Energy, Waste and Environment Councillor Adele Williams Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health
Report author and contact details:	Nancy Cordy – Nancy.cordy@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Executive Officer – Public Health
Other colleagues who have provided input:	
Subject to call-in:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Total value of the decision: £11,669,915	
Wards affected: ALL	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 07/09/2021	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Living in Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growing Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect for Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving Nottingham Better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues:	
<p>The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have awarded funding to upper tier local authorities to support the development and delivery of Local Outbreak Management Plans, which encompass a wide range of activity with the aim of mitigating against and/or managing outbreaks of COVID-19. In total Nottingham City Council has been allocated £14.806m in Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) across 2020/21 and 2021/22. In June 2020 Nottingham received an initial allocation of £3.127m, and approval to both accept and spend this amount was received via a Leaders Key Decision. All funding must be spent by 31 March 2022.</p> <p>This paper sets out a clear plan to ensure the full and appropriate utilisation of COMF by the end of March 22. This includes the distribution of up to £2m to local community and voluntary sector groups via a third party, to enable them to support local people in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 on their wider health and wellbeing.</p>	

Exempt information: None

Recommendations:

- 1** To accept the £11.670m of Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) provided to support the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2** To support in principle the allocations of COMF as described below to provide an ongoing response and support recovery during 21/22.
- 3** To delegate agreement of the approach to the Community Recovery Fund to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Finance, the Chair of the Engagement Board (Deputy Leader) and the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health.
- 4** To instruct the Director of Public Health to review the activity and spend in three months and provide an update report to the Executive.

1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Nottingham City Council have both delivered and commissioned a wide range of activity in order to both prevent and respond to local outbreaks of COVID-19 and protect the health of the population. COMF is provided to local authorities to enable this activity to take place.
- 1.2 In line with the agreed Outbreak Management Plan, the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) have oversight across all COVID-19 response funds, and delegate responsibility for the COMF budget to the Director of Public Health in line with an approved financial plan.
- 1.3 The community and local organisations in Nottingham have been critical partners in the COVID-19 response, providing essential practical and emotional support to people affected by the virus. As we move from a pandemic response in to recovery it is proposed to build on this community support by offering financial support via a Community Recovery Fund to local organisations who can provide services enabling and supporting recovery.
- 1.4 It is currently assumed that any COMF which remains unspent at the end of March 2022 will have to be returned to the DHSC as per the stated grant conditions.

2 Background

- 2.1 Nottingham City Council has received financial support totalling £14.806m from DHSC through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support the local level response to the COVID-19 pandemic across two financial years (2020/21, 2021/22). COMF was received in varying instalments based on retrospectively applied criteria.
- 2.2 It is currently assumed that Nottingham City Council has to have allocated all resources by 31 March 2022 to avoid clawback of underspend.
- 2.3 DHSC guidance allows for a broad range of activity to be funded, with the specific health activities that can be funded from COMF left to the judgement of local authorities in conjunction with the Directors of Public Health. However it should be noted that costs incurred as a result of COVID-19 (e.g loss of income) are not

eligible. Costs must have been incurred directly as a result of responding to and managing local outbreaks.

2.4 There are a number of key strands of the Council's response to COVID which will need to continue until the end of March 22 (and possibly beyond). This includes:

- Additional resources to support Outbreak Management and dedicated support on the analysis and interpretation of data;
- On-going engagement and support for businesses through the Environmental Health Services;
- Contact tracing;
- Support for Community Lateral Flow Testing;
- Communication and engagement;
- Behavioural Insights.

These are all core elements of the Council's approach and response.

2.5 COMF funding can also be used to support recovery work. Some key priority areas have been identified for additional activity to support recovery including domestic abuse and financial vulnerability.

2.6 Resources have also been identified to undertake focused work around disparities in health through COVID-19, which will be further developed following the receipt of research to be commissioned from the University of Nottingham.

2.7 The community and local organisations in Nottingham have been critical partners in the COVID-19 response, providing essential practical and emotional support to people affected by the virus. Nottingham has truly shown the value of a strong community and voluntary sector during this period. As we move from a pandemic response, to recovery and transformation it is proposed to build on this community support by offering financial support via a Community Recovery Fund to local organisations who can provide services across five key priorities of recovery:

- Mental health
- Social isolation
- Disparities exposed through Covid-19 (inequalities)
- People vulnerable to Covid-19
- People made vulnerable by Covid-19

2.8 It is proposed to administer the Community Recovery Fund via a third party (appropriate partner to be identified). This provides the benefits of strong community networks, a programme of support and development of small community organisations and the ability to carry funds across financial years to ensure a sustained COVID-19 recovery offer.

2.9 The proposed spend of COMF is set out in Table 1:

Table 1: COMF funding allocation

Description	Total projection (£m)
Testing	£0.516
Contact tracing and Self-isolation/CEV support	£2.011
Compliance and Enforcement	£1.289
Outbreak Management (inc data)	£1.887
Outbreak Management in high risk settings	£0.909
Communications/Engagement	£0.522
COVID-19 recovery	£6.315
Behavioural interventions (vaccination)	£0.350
Response funds (contingency)	£1.007
Total Project Spend	£14.806

2.10 It needs to be recognised that the response to the pandemic has been continually changing. These proposals represent an appropriate response at the current time. It is necessary to retain a degree of flexibility in order to ensure the Council is able to respond to changing situations, for example the identification of further Variants of Concern. Contingency will be retained to respond to these emerging and changing needs. This will be subject to regular review.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 To limit spend to health protection function only and return underspend.

4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

4.1 There has been **£14.8m allocated to Nottingham City Council** under the COMF; the end date for spend is 31 March 2022.

Table 1 in point 2.9 sets out how this will be allocated which is in accordance with the grant conditions.

4.2 £3.1m of this fund was approved under Decision 4160 – Allocation of Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant requiring the remainder of this grant to be approved within this report.

4.3 Any spend associated with this grant will undertake the same due diligence and value for money review that mainstream authority funding requires.

It is currently assumed that there is no need for dispensation from financial regulations at this stage however if there is any requirement a further formal decision will be taken.

4.4 Any partnership arrangement established, as referenced in point 2.8, will require the appropriate financial and legal controls to ensure mitigation of any risk to the Local Authority from this partnership.

Information requirements required from the partner will need to be established to ensure grant compliance.

Ceri Walters – Head of Commercial Finance
13 September 2021

5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

- 5.1 This report seeks approval to accept money from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for the Contain Outbreak Management which is being provided to support the Council's ongoing response and recovery in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.2 The City Council must ensure it complies with any terms and conditions specified by the DHSC in the grant funding agreement otherwise it will be at risk of DHSC invoking clawback. Any contract with a third party provider must comply with any relevant provisions as stipulated by the DHSC such as monitoring and reporting outputs.
- 5.3 Any spend with external providers will need to be made in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules and the Council's Financial Regulations.

Beth Brown - Head of Legal and Governance
13 September 2021

6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decisions relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure)

6.1 Not Applicable.

7 Social value considerations

7.1 Not Applicable.

8 Regard to the NHS Constitution

8.1

9 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required at this stage. The COVID-19 Community Recovery Fund will support the addressing of inequalities. The delivery mechanism for this fund, including the funding criteria and decision-making process will be subject to an EIA.

Yes



10 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

10.1 None

11 Published documents referred to in this report

11.1 Decision 4160 – Allocation of Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant