

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by the officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

Delegated Power

Cabinet: 17 November 2020

Para 13:

That authority be delegated to the Revenues and Benefits Manager, in consultation with the s151 Officer and Council Leader, to decide the discretionary criteria for government Covid-19 support schemes and discounts where they:

- Are part of a central government Covid-19 support initiative,
- Are funded by central government, and
- Will be administered by the Revenues and Benefits section

Decision Taken

Updates to the council's Test and Trace Discretionary Payment Scheme to increase the minimum income and savings limits, and to introduce a policy for a discretionary Test and Trace Bridging Payment.

Reasons for the Decision

To agree the amendments to the policy for awarding discretionary payments for people required to self-isolate as they have tested positive for Covid-19, or have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

The savings and income limits are agreed across all Norfolk authorities and have been increased from 1 July 2021 so more people are eligible for the scheme.

Also across Norfolk a 'bridging payment' scheme has been agreed to compensate people who self-isolate after receiving a positive Lateral Flow Test result, who then have a negative PCR test result. They cannot claim the £500 Test and Trace Payment but may be eligible for the £150 bridging payment to make up for lost income if they also meet the other eligibility criteria.

Options considered

The updates have been discussed and agreed across all Norfolk authorities. The Test and Trace Bridging Payment will be fully funded by Norfolk County Council and is designed to reduce the risk of people not self-isolating between receiving a positive Lateral Flow Test result and a their PCR test result as they are worried about losing income.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

Not applicable

Recommended by

Signature

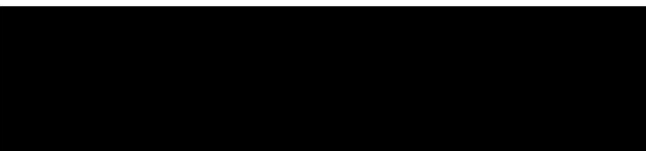


Jo Stanton, Revenues and Benefits Manager

Date 13 July 2021

Authorisation

Signature



Michelle Drewery, s151 Officer

Date 13 July 2021

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Consultation with the Council Leader, Councillor Stuart Dark

Signed by Member as consulted:



Councillor Stuart Dark

Date 13/07/2021

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function: Discretionary Policy for Test and Trace Support Payments – Updates from 1 July 2021

Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?: New

Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. The policy updates the criteria for the Discretionary Payments of the Test and Trace Support Payment and introduces a Test and Trace Bridging Payment
Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations

Question Answer

<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			√	
	Disability			√	
	Gender			√	
	Gender Re-assignment			√	
	Marriage/civil partnership			√	
	Pregnancy & maternity			√	
	Race			√	
	Religion or belief			√	
	Sexual orientation			√	
Other (eg low income)	√				

Question Answer Comments

2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another? **No**

3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently? **No**

4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination? **No**

5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? **N/A**
If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section
Actions: None required as the policy has an intended positive impact on low income groups
Actions agreed by EWG member:Jo Stanton.....

If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:

The policy is designed to support people who test positive for Covid-19, are a close contact of someone who has tested positive or have to care for a child or young person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive. The criteria are mostly set by central government and the impact is positive as qualifying people

receive a lump sum payment to encourage them to self-isolate. The Test and Trace Bridging Payment will help people on low incomes who will lose money as they have to self-isolate for a short amount of time if they have received a positive Lateral Flow Test and are waiting for the results of a PCR test.

Assessment completed by:

Name Joanne Stanton

Job title Revenues and Benefits Manager

Date 13 July 2021