

This record relates to urgent decisions taken by Chief Officers under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers Paragraph 7(2).

RECORD OF URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY: Chief Executive, Brighton and Hove City Council

SUBJECT: Emergency Food Provision
CONTACT OFFICER: Emma McDermott, Head of Community & Equality, x1577

REASONS FOR URGENCY AND WHY NOT PRACTICABLE TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING OR URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Food Cell is part of the local COVID-19 emergency response structure. The objective of this cell is to provide an all-age citywide response to issues relating to food arising from COVID-19 crisis.

The Food Cell identified an immediate and growing need to secure food supplies and distribution to ensure that the most vulnerable residents of the city could be provided with the food that they need to sustain them. Working with the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP), also part of the cell, an urgent response was developed including appropriate food supply chains and identification of staffing support to aid with planning and distribution. The Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove City Council has agreed to the funding of £124,500, broken down as follows:

Expenditure	Total
Funding contribution approximated on number of parcels/meals provided and/or value of food provided via BHFP	
Funding for food banks in existence before the crisis: 8 receive £500 per month for three months 6 receive £1,000 per month for three months	30,000
Funding for food hubs: 6 receive £500 per month for three months 11 receive £1,000 per month for three months	42,000
Funding for community meals: 7 receive £500 per month for three months 3 receive £1,000 per month for three months	19,500
Funding for same day emergency parcels April and May costs approx. £12-13,000 per month	13,000

Funding for children's centre food bank: Average approx. cost of £12 per family per week (costed on a four person family for 2/3 days of food) 140 parcels per week for 12 weeks.	20,000
Total costs	124,500

The Food Cell completed financial projections matched to expected demand for June to August and through that process identified a significant shortfall against the anticipated donations for BHFP. Given that there is no cashflow capacity with BHFP and the urgent need for funding an officer urgency decision was required.

DETAILS AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR OF RELEVANT COMMITTEE AND OPPOSITION SPOKES:

All groups were in agreement with the proposal.

DATE OF CONSULTATION WITH CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR AND OPPOSITION SPOKES:

Chair 28th May

Opposition Spokes 5th June

THE DECISION:

To note the use of officer urgency powers by the Chief Executive Brighton and Hove City Council to utilise up to £124,500 from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to secure the supply and distribution of food to vulnerable residents.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

For the following reasons the council has provided funding to the value of £124,500 for emergency food provision for a further 12 weeks (June-August), that:

- emergency food need does not appear to be abating
- recovery for the city may not be a linear path with the possibility of resurgence of the virus and reinstating of lockdown measures
- numbers on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list are likely to fluctuate as new individuals awaiting clinical procedures join the list and may need additional food support on top of/instead of the government doorstep delivery as well existing individuals who have been removed from the CEV list whose doorstep delivery has been stopped but still have a food need
- The new community led neighbourhood food hubs developed to provide additional capacity to existing food banks may need to close as their venues – i.e. community centres - revert to their original use as lockdown eases. This will require the food banks to take on their resident lists.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Alternative options considered including doing nothing, with local food projects being reliant on their own fundraising and donations of surplus food and from general public. This would transfer the financial pressure to the projects, majority of which are volunteer led. The projects would have to reduce the number of residents they provide for, reduce the content of the food parcel i.e. 1 / 2 days' worth of basic provisions as opposed to 3 or 4.

Another option considered was to provide a greater level of funding. Long term funding of food banks is unsustainable. It is preferable to consider the funding available to advice and welfare support in the city to support residents to maximise their incomes and manage their money.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Under the Council's Scheme of Officer Delegations in cases of urgency, Chief Officers can take decisions provided that they have consulted with the Chair of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee. The action take must be reported to the Committee or Sub-committee. The use of Officer Urgency Powers Protocol requires that the Opposition Spokes are consulted – this has been carried out as set out above.

Lawyer Consulted: Date: 05/06/2020

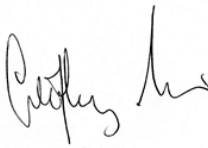
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The financial implications are set out in the report. The funding source will be the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Finance Office Consulted: Michael Bentley Date: 05/06/20

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING TO WHICH THE DECISION WILL BE REPORTED:

Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub Committee 24/06/20

Date:	05/06/20
<p>Signed:</p>  <p>Geoff Raw</p>	

OFFICER DECISION

Brighton & Hove City Council

Chief Executive Brighton and Hove City Council	
Logged by Democratic Services Officer for Annual Report:	
Name:	Date: