

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to continue to administer the test and trace support payments to individuals on low income required to self-isolate.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	18 January 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an emergency decision because of Covid-19 “Council constitution 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies”</li> </ul>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	None
<b>Decision made:</b>	To continue to administer the payment of £500 to individuals on low income self-isolating due to either a positive Covid 19 test or identified by NHS Test and Trace. Initially the scheme was to end on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 this has been extended to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>Central government announced the test and trace support payments scheme on 20 September 2020 and an extension to the scheme was announced on 11 January 2021.</p> <p>Central government is providing further funding for Test and Trace Support Payments of a £500 lump sum payment for employed people on low incomes who are unable to work while they are self-isolating because they cannot work from home.</p> <p>To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment, an individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because they’ve tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;</li> <li>• be employed or self-employed;</li> <li>• be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and</li> <li>• be currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.</li> </ul> <p>To be eligible for a discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment, an individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because they’ve tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;</li> <li>• be employed or self-employed and earn up to £400 a week;</li> <li>• be unable to work from home and will lose at least 50% of earned income as a result; and</li> <li>• have less than £3,000 in savings.</li> </ul> <p>Herefordshire Council will verify eligibility, process applications and make payments.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/</b>	The cost of the scheme will be reimbursed by central government.

<b>equality considerations:</b>	Councils will have the right to recoup money from any recipients who do not adhere to the terms of the scheme.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	None
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed:  
Andrew Lovegrove, Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Executive

Date: 18 January 2021