

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Decision to administer the test and trace support payments to individuals on low income required to self-isolate.
Date of decision:	22 September 2020
Decision maker:	Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Executive
Authority for delegated decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an emergency decision because of Covid-19 “Council constitution 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies”
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	None
Decision made:	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. Scheme to run from 28 September to 31 st January 2021.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Central government announced the test and trace support payments scheme on 20 September.</p> <p>From 28 September there will be a new legal duty on all those who test positive for COVID-19 or are identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, requiring them to self-isolate.</p> <p>Central government is providing funding for a new Test and Trace Support Payment scheme of a £500 lump sum payment for 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"> • 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; • be employed or self-employed; • be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and • 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. <p>Herefordshire Council will verify eligibility, process applications and make payments.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The cost of the scheme will be reimbursed by central government.</p> <p>Councils will have the right to recoup money from any recipients who do not adhere to the terms of the scheme.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	None

**Details of any
declarations
of interest made:**

None

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

Date: 22 September 2020