

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Decision to continue to administer the test and trace support payments to individuals on low income required to self-isolate
Date of decision:	6 May 2021
Decision maker:	Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Executive
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executive's Scheme of Delegation dated 29/09/2020 SA92 – Chief Finance Officer
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	None
Decision made:	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 January 2021 this was initially extended to 31 March 2021 and has been extended again to 30 June 2021.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Central government announced the test and trace support payments scheme on 20 September 2020 and two further extensions to the scheme. The latest guidance extended the eligibility for a support payment to parents and guardians under either the main or discretionary support schemes described below.</p> <p>In addition the scheme extension to the scheme extends the time-limit for retrospective applications, which is 42 days after an applicant's first day of self-isolation. Previously this was 28 days.</p> <p>Central government are assessing whether the scheme has supported people to self-isolate and incentivised testing. Ministers will then decide if the scheme should continue past 30 June 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"> • 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>To be eligible for a discretionary 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 and earn up to £400 a week; • be unable to work from home and will lose at least 50% of earned income as a result; and • have less than £3,000 in savings. <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 and Deputy Chief Executive

Date: 6 May 2021