

**Decision made under the Council's Urgency Procedure by
the Leader of the Council on 9 April 2020**

**Councillors' Grant Fund 2020–2021- COVID-19 Support
Fund**

Lead Member	Leader of the Council, Councillor Izzi Seccombe
Date of decision	9 April 2020
	Signed 

Decision

That the Leader of the Council agrees to bring forward the Councillors' Grant Fund 2020-21 to:

- Help people self-isolating or in quarantine as a consequence of COVID-19.
- Improve community resilience against the wider impact of COVID-19.
- Develop community networks to support either of the above.

Reasons for decisions

An urgent decision is required of the Leader to approve the bringing forward of the Councillors' Grant Fund 2020-21 during the Coronavirus emergency.

1.0 & 2.0 Background information

1.0 Key Issues

1.1 There is budget approval for the Councillors' Grant Fund for 2020-21. The budget comprises the sum of £6,000 for each of the 57 elected members £342,000 in total.

1.2 A co-ordinated effort across the voluntary and community sector is making a tremendous difference to isolated and vulnerable people and those most in need of help. To help sustain this effort a special round of the Councillors' Grant Funding will take place according to the following dates:

- Application window open 14 April 2020
- Application window close 26 April 2020
- Applications to members for determination w/c 27 April
- Applications informed of success or non-success w/c 4 May
- Payments to applicants w/c 11 and w/c 18 May

1.3 The Grant Fund will be advertised through the usual channels including through Warwickshire and Community and Voluntary Action.

1.4 It is expected that the majority of the Grant Fund for 2020-21 will be allocated through this round.

1.5 The application process will be streamlined in the interests of expediency. In particular, the requirement for applications to be scored will be deleted. Applications will go straight to members for determination.

1.6 For Warwick District, where members split their allocations between the Councillors' Grant Fund and the Community Forum Grant Funds for their divisions, members will be asked prior to launch how they wish to split their allocations. It is expected that most will allocate all or the majority of their allocations to the Support Fund.

1.7 As per the usual procedure groups will be required to complete an evaluation/monitoring form to ensure the monies awarded have been spent in accordance with the requirements of the COVID-19 Support Fund.

2.0 Options and Proposal

2.1 Options:

- Bring forward the Councillors' Grant Fund to April 2020 as described above.
- Continue with the scheduled first round of the Councillors' Grant Fund in May 2020
- Reprofile the Councillors' Grant Fund to address other priorities.

2.2 Proposal:

Bring forward the Councillors' Grant Fund 2020-21 to:

- Help people self-isolating or in quarantine as a consequence of COVID-19
- Improve community resilience against the wider impact of COVID-19
- Develop community networks to support either of the above

See appendices 1 and 2 for briefing note and guidance notes

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 No additional expenditure required above the approved budget for 2020-21

4.0 Environmental implications

4.1 None

5.0 Timescales Associated with the Decision and Next Steps

5.1 It is appropriate that this report should be dealt with under the Urgent Decision procedure in the County Council Constitution because of the timescales involved and the need to urgently support voluntary and community sector groups helping isolated and vulnerable people.

Report Author	John Findlay
Assistant Director	Kushal Birla
Lead Director	Rob Powell
Lead Member	Leader of the Council

Urgent matter?	Yes
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

Lists of reports considered

Not applicable

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Corporate Board – N/A

Legal – Nichola Vine/Jane Pollard

Finance – Andy Felton and Rob Powell

Equality – N/A

Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillors –

Councillor Adrian Warwick (For consent to urgency)

Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Opposition Leaders