

## Emergency Committee

**Friday 9 October 2020 at 13:30 at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Crompton (Chair);  
Councillors Ali, Shaeen, Millard and Moore.

**Officers:** David Stevens (Chief Executive), Surjit Tour  
(Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring  
Officer) and Rebecca Maher (Head of Finance  
and Acting Section 151 Officer).

70/20 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

71/20 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at the meeting.

72/20 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.

73/20 **Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme Policy**

It was reported that, on 25 September 2020 the Department of Health and Social Care had introduced Test and Trace Support Payments and Discretionary Support Payments for people who were required to self-isolate because they have either tested positive for COVID-19 or had been identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact.



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Local authorities were expected to commence making payments from 12 October 2020 to 31 January 2021. The Committee was therefore asked to approve a Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme Policy for Sandwell.

Revised guidance had been received from Department of Health and Social Care on 30th September 2020 and details of funding on 2nd October 2020.

The Committee noted the criteria that had to be met for an individual to qualify for the £500 payment. Sandwell had received funding of £189k for the main Test and Trace Support Scheme and £113k for the Discretionary Scheme. This funding was based upon an estimated average of four applications per day.

Members welcomed the schemes. However, concern was expressed that the level of funding was not sufficient, given that Sandwell was already under local restrictions due to higher case numbers and was already a deprived area. The Cabinet Member for Resources and Core Services reported that he would be writing to the government about these concerns and request additional funding.

**Agreed** that approval is given to the Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme Policy, set out in the Appendix.

Meeting ended at 13.45

**This meeting was webcast live and is available to view at the link below**

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