

REPORT TO	DATE
Chief Executive, in Consultation with the Leader of the Council	7/7/20



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Urgent Decision Under Section 35 of the Council's Constitution:  Holiday Hunger Scheme – Summer 2020	Leader	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report a key decision?	No
Is this report confidential?	No

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To request urgent approval to spend up to £85,000 from the Council's COVID-19 response budget to enable delivery of South Ribble Borough Council's Holiday Hunger Scheme in July and August 2020.
2. A parallel request to waive contract procedure rules to allow selection of a single supplier has been submitted.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Approval of spend up to £85,000 from the Council's COVID-19 response budget on the Summer 2020 Holiday Hunger Scheme.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

4. Work on the South Ribble Together Community Hub has demonstrated that vulnerable residents need additional support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The government has provided grant funding of £1.138m to South Ribble Council which can be utilised to support those who have been adversely impacted. Issues such as reduced household income and school closures have had a direct consequence on families in South Ribble, with some now facing hardship and uncertainty.
6. In May 2020, approval was given to creation of a COVID-19 response budget, to support the Council's response to the current pandemic. The recommendation to spend up to £85,000 on the Holiday Hunger scheme is a fitting purpose for this funding.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the United Kingdom, affecting businesses, individuals and in particular the most vulnerable in society.
8. The Government have set out a suite of support measures including financial support. Grant support totalling £3.2bn has been given to local authorities across the country, £1.138m of which has been allocated to South Ribble Council.
9. This Council has been actively supporting its residents and businesses during this period and will continue to do so in the coming months through the South Ribble Together Community Hub.
10. The Holiday Hunger Scheme is aligned to the work of the Hub, in ensuring help is given to those families that need it most. Schools have been asked to supply numbers of families who are eligible for free school meals and at risk of food poverty without a little extra support.
11. Teachers have identified these families and are supplying vouchers which can be exchanged for a lunch club bag of staple items. As a result of increasing need and difficulties in contacting parents during school closures, confirmed numbers have only just been made available.
12. As the previous pop-up shop model is not viable whilst complying with social distancing regulations, an alternative system is suggested, with items pre-bagged for collection. Appropriate centres for distribution have been identified, with home deliveries for those families in the more rural areas of Eastern and Western Parishes.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

13. The report relates to the following corporate outcomes:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Leisure	✓
Place, Homes and Environment	

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	✓
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## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

14. Over the summer holidays in July and August 2019, the Council ran a pilot project to provide a 'holiday lunch club' for families who would normally receive free school

meals. Vouchers were given out by teachers which could be exchanged for 10 items of food at a weekly pop-up shop run by the Council.

15. Since then, the scheme has grown, with increasing schools engagement. In November 2019, Cabinet approved a budget of £60,000 over four years to roll the scheme out borough-wide.
16. During the COVID-19 pandemic, demand has increased significantly. At Easter 2020, 350 children received vouchers. By May 2020, this had increased to 505. For July and August, we have been asked to provide vouchers for 1000 children – all of whom would normally receive free school meals and all of whom have been identified as potentially vulnerable by teachers.

### **PROPOSALS (e.g. rationale, detail, finance, procurement)**

17. In order to establish demand for lunch club bags over the summer holidays, the Council's Community Involvement Team has liaised with schools across the borough. As part of these discussions, satellite distribution centres have been identified which are workable with current restrictions:

<b>Distribution Centre</b>	<b>Area covered</b>
Lostock Hall Academy	Lostock Hall & Farington
Bamber Bridge Methodist Church	Bamber Bridge & Walton le Dale
Penwortham Community Centre	Lower Penwortham
Priory High School	Higher Penwortham & Longton
Civic Centre	Leyland
The Place, Wade Hall	Leyland
The Base, Broadfield	Leyland & Farington

18. The previous pop-up shop model is not viable whilst complying with social distancing regulations, so an alternative system is suggested using the above venues, with items pre-bagged for collection.
19. Home deliveries are planned for those families in the more rural areas of Eastern and Western Parishes.
20. To enable adequate food orders to be delivered to the centres above, Officers have contacted a range of suppliers and discussed options for logistics and delivery. One local (Preston based supplier) is able to offer the foods requested, for the dates requested, delivered to the locations requested, at a competitive price to supermarkets.
21. It is proposed to commission this supplier, on a one off basis, to provide all the foodstuffs required for the Holiday Hunger Scheme in Summer 2020. A Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules has been submitted alongside this report.

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

22. Consultation on this scheme has been ongoing since its inception in Summer 2019. Schools and partners including Penwortham Town Council, Key Unlocking Futures and Wade Hall Community Association have all been intrinsic in its development.
23. The numbers of families / children requiring support are a direct outcome of this consultation.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

24. Given the tight timescale associated with delivery of this project, other delivery options were limited. The following have been considered and discounted:
- Use of more than one supplier to operate within contract procedure rules – not viable logistically with timescales and delivery requirements to satellite locations.
  - Use of company credit card to procure supplies from supermarkets – not viable given levels of demand.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

25. None.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

26. None.

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPACT**

27. No adverse impacts on any of the protected characteristics. This scheme supports the Council's objective of reducing inequality.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

28. The council budgets £15k per annum for the holiday hunger scheme, the additional services outlined in the report are estimated to cost an additional £85k on top of this budget and this will be funded through the Covid-19 budget.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

29. There are no concerns from a Monitoring Officer perspective. It is important that the necessary waiver of Contact Procedure Rules (CPRs) is obtained via our electronic waiver system prior to the commissioning of the proposed supplier.

**Jennifer Mullin**  
**Director of Neighbourhoods and Development**

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
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## Approval of Urgent Decision

I confirm that I consider this decision is one of genuine urgency in accordance with section the Council's constitution:



Councillor David Howarth  
Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Dated: 10/07/20

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of the report, I approve the recommendations contained in the report in accordance with the Council's constitution in consultation with the Leader of the Council:



Gary Hall  
Chief Executive

Dated: 10/07/20



Councillor Paul Foster  
Leader of the Council

Dated: 10/07/20