

REPORT TO	DATE
Chief Executive, in Consultation with the Leader of the Council	20/11/20



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Urgent Decision Under Section 35 of the Council's Constitution:  Holiday Hunger Scheme – Christmas 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 £18,000 from the Council's COVID-19 response budget to enable delivery of South Ribble Borough Council's Holiday Hunger Scheme until March 2021.
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 £18,000 from the Council's COVID-19 response budget on the Christmas 2020 Holiday Hunger Scheme.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

4. The original urgent decision was agreed in July 2020 to request urgent approval to deliver the Council's Holiday Hunger project for the summer and a waiver was applied for.
5. Work on the South Ribble Together Community Hub and delivering the project on Holiday Hunger during the summer 2020 has demonstrated that vulnerable residents need additional support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. In the October half term food was provided to 1,200 children and this equates to over 5,800 meals. All schools were contacted and asked to supply numbers of children who are eligible for free school meals and at risk of food poverty without a little extra support. Food was given to all children the teachers indicated were in need.

7. The government has provided grant funding of £1.481m 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.
8. In addition, the council has received one off funding via LCC for £99,245 to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to Covid-19.
9. The council has approved to spend up to £85,000 to enable the extended delivery of South Ribble Borough Council's Holiday Hunger Scheme in July and August 2020. The recommendation in this report is to spend up to an additional £18,000 on the Holiday Hunger scheme first from the £99k pot identified above and then from the £1.481m Covid-19 funding where necessary.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

10. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the United Kingdom, affecting businesses, individuals and in particular the most vulnerable in society.
11. The council has received £99k to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials. It is proposed to allocated this funding to extend the council's holiday hunger scheme to date and through the Christmas period. The council has also received £1.481m to support expenditure during Covid, it is proposed this is used for any further costs over and above the £99k allocation and £15k budget already included in the council's base budget.
12. This Council has been actively supporting its residents and businesses during this period and will continue to do so in the coming months though the South Ribble Together Community Hub.
13. 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.
14. As the previous pop-up shop model is not viable whilst complying with social distancing regulations, an alternative system is suggested. It has been agreed that the food will be delivered directly to the schools for distribution.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

15. 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	✓
----------------------------	---



## **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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 and in October 1,200 children – all of whom would normally receive free school meals and all of whom have been identified as potentially vulnerable by teachers.
19. This week the Council has been asked to join a call with Lancashire County Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> November to discuss food provision over the holiday period and officers will ensure that our project will complement this work.

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

20. 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. Due to the COVID restrictions on Community Centers a model has been developed to deliver the food directly to the schools for distribution.
21. 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.
22. It is proposed to commission this supplier, to provide all the foodstuffs required for the Holiday Hunger Scheme Christmas 2020. A Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules has been submitted alongside this report.

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

- 23.** 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.
- 24.** The numbers of families / children requiring support are a direct outcome of this consultation.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 25.** 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**

- 26.** None.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 27.** None.

### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPACT**

- 28.** 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**

- 29.** The council budgets is £15k per annum for the holiday hunger scheme, the additional services outlined in the report are estimated to cost an additional £85k and £18k. The additional expenditure will first be funded through the £99k funding received via LCC and then through the £1.481m Covid-19 grant if necessary.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

- 30.** 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.

Attached: July Holiday Hunger urgent decision.

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

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Rebecca Heap	01772 625276	17/11/20

## **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: 23 November 2020

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: 24 November 2020



---

Councillor Paul Foster  
Leader of the Council

Dated: 24 November 2020