

Agenda Item 5d

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Officer Urgent Decision - Record

Discretionary Self-Isolation Payments - revised

Decision(s) taken:	To approve the revised framework for Discretionary Self-Isolation Payments.
Decision of:	Strategic Director 2 (Suzanne Hemmingway)
Date of decision:	28 January 2021
Reference:	2021/OfficerUrgent/SR/01
Matter for Decision:	<p>Increased funding from central government (effective from 14 December 2020) of £7,917 increases the maximum awards that can be paid from 59 to 75. Revised changes with effect from 14 December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the maximum earnings rate to £37,400 for households with children • Increase allowed capital held to £6,000 • Requirement to pay commercial rent or mortgage • Introduce significant financial hardship category <p>Since inception, this is the third urgent decision request in a rapidly changing environment, including changes in funding. The scheme has been extended by government to 31 March 2021 and funding is under review. Delegation is sought to allow Head of Revenues and Benefits to make changes to the discretionary criteria as needed.</p> <p>During the course of this scheme and any changes to it, the Ex Cllr for F&R will be kept informed'</p>
Any alternative options considered and rejected:	The decisions are based on the latest modelling and information at 28 January 2021 and will be kept under review.
Reason(s) for the decision including any background papers considered:	An urgent decision under paragraph 2 of section 9, Council Procedure Rules was necessary as there are no meetings of Strategy and Resources Committee within a reasonable timeframe and taking into account the current national situation it is unclear when this could be possible.
Conflicts of interest and dispensations granted by the Chief Executive:	None.
Other Comments:	<p>The Executive Councillor was consulted prior to the decisions taken.</p> <p>There are no budgetary implications as Cambridge City Council has been given funding to administer and pay these awards.</p>
Reference:	
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