

West Sussex County Council

Urgent Action

The following decision has been taken under the urgent action procedure by the Director of Law and Assurance, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and with the agreement of the relevant Committee Chairman.

Regulation 11: This decision is a key decision and as such should have been included in the Forward Plan for the required 28 days. It was, however, not possible to do so and agreement to the decision has been obtained from the relevant Committee Chairman and notice has been given to the public.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Emergency Assistance Grant FRC01 20/21
Officer responsible for Decision	Tony Kershaw - Director of Law and Assurance
Cabinet Member portfolio	Duncan Crow – Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities
Decision published	7 September 2020
West Sussex Plan priority	A Safe, Strong and Sustainable Place
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	In response to the continuing Covid-19 situation, the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has announced a Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies to support people who are struggling with food and essential supplies. The County Council's share of the grant is £737,319. The accompanying guidance states the receiving authority can use its discretion to support those most in need. It is proposed to introduce a simple countywide approach to ensure the funding supports those in need quickly.
Decision	<p>The Director of Law & Assurance, with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities and the Chairman of the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee, has used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 for approval to be given that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) the allocations from the Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies to the voluntary sector organisations set out in paragraph 2.1;2) the remaining funds from the grant be allocated to customers known to the County Council as set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3;

	<p>3) West Sussex County Council works in line with government guidance and applies the agreed criteria to support residents in hardship as a result of Covid-19 in partnership with District and Boroughs and the voluntary sector; and</p> <p>4) the Acting Director of Communities, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Support Services, is authorised to rebalance the allocation according to greatest need in the event that the funds allocated under 2.1 prove insufficient.</p>
Interest and nature of interest declared	None
Reason for urgency	This decision is urgent due to the need for the County Council to respond quickly to the continuing Covid-19 situation.
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Background Papers	See report for details