

Covid-19 Summary - As At 31st March 2022

Finance Summary

- The cost of the Covid-19 pandemic to the County Council has been monitored separately from the portfolio budgets agreed by County Council in February 2021. All costs relating to the pandemic which were incurred in 2021/22 have been funded from government grants or from other income received from partners.
- Table 1** details the outturn position of Covid-19 expenditure and income for 2021/22 by Portfolio. The presentation of this table has been updated to separate grants which have been administered by the County Council to care providers on behalf of the Government.

Table 1 – Covid-19 Summary

Portfolio	Projected Expenditure
Adults & Health	£16.420m
Children & Young People	£0.146m
Learning & Skills	£1.767m
Community Support, Fire & Rescue	£10.272m
Environment & Climate Change	£0.233m
Finance & Property	£0.895m
Highways & Transport	£1.668m
Public Health & Wellbeing	£9.692m
Support Services & Economic Development	£0.542m
Non-Portfolio	£8.404m
Total Portfolio Expenditure	£50.039m

Adults & Health – Grants administered by the County Council on behalf of Government	£21.273m
Total Expenditure	£71.312m

Income Allocations (including grants carried forward from 2020/21)	Allocation
<i>Grant</i> - Covid-19 central government non-ringfenced grant (including Local Council Tax Support and Omicron Support Grant)	(£30.252m)
<i>Grant</i> –Covid-19 specific grants including (Contained Outbreak Management Fund, Local Support Grant and others)	(£37.463m)
<i>Grant</i> –Covid-19 specific grants administered in accordance to Government requirements (including Infection Control and others)	(£24.337m)
<i>Other Income</i> – Covid-19 income estimated contribution from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).	(£2.334m)
Total Income Available	(£94.386m)

Repayment of Central Government Administered Grants	£3.064m
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Repayment of Local Authority Unused Grant	£0.192m
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Remaining Grant To Carry Forward into 2022/22	(£19.818m)
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3. The £19.8m grant funding which has been carried forward into 2022/23 consists of:
 - £13.0m of **Local Authority Non-Ringfenced Grant** which remains committed to cover the on-going impacts and costs associated with the pandemic. This balance also includes the committed 2022/23 capital contribution of £1.723m towards the A284 Lyminster Bypass works which have been heavily impacted by the pandemic.
 - £3.0m relates to the **Local Council Tax Support Grant** which has been allocated to provide council tax support to residents in the 2022/23 Budget.
 - £3.6m relates to the ringfenced **Contained Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)**. This funding is committed to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 and to support local public health.
 - £0.2m relates to the ringfenced **Emergency Active Travel Fund** which is committed to protecting and increasing travel services.
4. The County Council has been pragmatic in its approach to the use of the Covid-19 ringfenced grant funding available, with the Executive Leadership Team playing a key governance role in determining how to distribute funding where there is local discretion over its use, which has enabled the projected remaining £13.0m non-ringfenced grant to be safeguarded to assist the challenges ahead.
5. A forward assessment of the areas which may require funding from the Covid-19 grant next year has taken place which has identified the following key areas:
 - Increase in the cost of care provision and the potential need for an extension of support to providers to help secure stability in the adult social care market.
 - Continuation of the additional staffing in Adult Services to meet the needs of customers during the pandemic.
 - The continuation of the Community Hub which helps to support the most vulnerable residents in West Sussex.
 - Other costs associated with the pandemic including personal protective equipment (PPE), Covid-19 test kits for front-line staff and additional cleaning of public buildings.
6. There have been a number of specific ringfenced grants which have been administered by the County Council in accordance with Government directives. These grants included the Infection Control, Rapid Testing, Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund and Care Staff Vaccination. £3.1m of the Central Government administered grant, covering 2020/21 and 2021/22, has been returned to the County Council from care providers. In accordance with the grant conditions, this funding must be repaid back to the Government.
7. The County Council has endeavoured to maximise the Covid-19 ringfenced grants, however there are two specific grants where the unspent funding balance is required to be repaid to the Government:

- £0.003m - Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport Grant, and
 - £0.189m - Practical Support Framework Grant.
8. The Practical Support Framework Grant relates to funding given to Local Authorities to support people who were self-isolating; with clear instruction that the funds could not be used to deliver financial support. With the national Covid-19 restrictions ceasing in February 2022, a modest balance of £0.189m remained unspent and will be returned to the Government.

Covid-19 Key Decisions During 2021/22

Table 2 lists the Key Decisions which have been taken during the year that have impacted Covid-19 expenditure.

Table 2: Key Decisions Which Have Impacted in Year Expenditure

Key Decision	Description	Funding Source	Date	Key Decision Reference
Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund	Allocation of Infection prevention and control and rapid testing funding	Specific grant allocation	30 th April 2021	OKD75 (20/21)
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	Proposal to utilise £6.018m of the total grant funding, of which £2.933m is to support activities by the West Sussex Districts and Boroughs, £0.665m is for homelessness prevention (Adults) and £2.419m is to support services for children and young people	Specific grant allocation	6 th May 2021	OKD78 (20/21)
Emergency Central Government Funding Allocation	Allocation of £0.542m to complete the demolition of the former Chichester High School Year 7 Building project following delays and loss of funding due to the pandemic.	County Council funding	08 th July 2021	FP02 (21/22)
Winter Grant Scheme - Household Support Fund	Distribute funding from the Household Support Fund, working with partners	Specific grant allocation	07 th December 2021	CFFR02 (21/22)

Covid-19 Grant Funding Allocations 2021/22

A listing of available Covid-19 grant funding is shown in **Table 3**. This details the grants brought forward from 2020/21 and confirmed new grants received in year.

Table 3 - Covid-19 Grant - As At 31st March 2022

Description	Total Funds Available In 2021/22 £m	Total Utilised In 2021/22 £m	Grants Repaid/ To Be Repaid 2021/22 £m	Total Grant Available 2022/23 £m	Update and Explanation of Grant
Non-Ringfenced Grant and Contributions:					
Local Authority Non-Ringfenced Grant	22.746	9.770	-	12.976	The £12.976m funds remaining are committed to funding the on-going impact of the pandemic into 2022/23. This includes a £1.723m transfer to the Capital Programme to fund additional costs which originated during the pandemic.
Fire Contingency Fund	0.052	0.052	-	-	
Local Council Tax Support	6.628	3.628	-	3.000	The 2022/23 Budget agreed by County Council allocated the remaining £3.0m of Council Tax support for residents.
Omicron Support Grant	0.826	0.826	-	-	
Total Non-Ringfenced Grant	30.252	14.276	-	15.976	
Specific/ Dedicated Grants (WSSC Expenditure):					
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	23.323	19.672	-	3.651	Funding to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 and support local public health. There are commitments against the remaining grant and is expected to be utilised in 2022/23.
Test and Trace	1.311	1.311	-	-	Led by WS Public Health, implementation of tailored outbreak control plans to reduce and manage the virus across the county.
Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Adult Social Care)	1.371	1.371	-	-	To support local authorities to address adult social care workforce capacity pressures in their geographical area through recruitment and retention activity this winter.
Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport	0.648	0.645	0.003	-	To provide sufficient transport capacity so children and young people can attend school and college safely and on time. Small underspend to be returned to the Department for Education.
Winter Support Grant	0.823	0.823	-	-	The Winter and Local Support Grants provide support to children and households who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty, where they are impacted by the ongoing public health emergency, and where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.
Local Support Grant	2.340	2.340	-	-	
Practical Support Framework	1.758	1.569	0.189	-	To support people who have been told to self-isolate in carrying out essential tasks or offer social or emotional support.
Household Support Fund	4.870	4.870	-	-	To support vulnerable households to meet daily needs such as food, clothing and utilities.
Travel Demand Management Grant	0.134	0.113	-	0.021	Public transport support funding. Remaining funding to be fully utilised in 2022/23.
Bus Support Services Grant	0.328	0.328	-	-	To support bus operators to continue running services during lockdown (supported transport routes).
Emergency Active Travel Fund	0.470	0.300	-	0.170	Funding to Protect and Increase Travel Services. Phase 2. Remaining grant to be fully utilised in 2022/23.
Wellbeing for Education Grant	0.087	0.087	-	-	Additional funding for local authorities to support pupils' and students' wellbeing and psychosocial recovery as they return to full-time education.
Total Specific/ Dedicated Grant:	37.463	33.429	0.192	3.842	
Specific/ Dedicated Grants Administered in Accordance to Government Requirements:					
Infection Control	11.660	9.448	2.212	-	To support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of Covid-19 within and between care settings through infection prevention and control practices. Unspent funding repaid by care providers is to be returned to Central Government.
Rapid Testing	7.229	6.693	0.536	-	To support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of Covid-19 by providing rapid testing to staff and visitors. Unspent funding repaid by care providers is to be returned to Central Government.
Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Adult Social Care)	4.995	4.698	0.297	-	To support local authorities to address adult social care workforce capacity pressures in their geographical area through recruitment and retention activity. Unspent funding repaid by care providers is to be returned to Central Government.
Care Staff Vaccination	0.453	0.434	0.019	-	To support care providers and social care staff with the costs associated with accessing Covid-19 and flu vaccinations. Unspent funding repaid by care providers is to be returned to Central Government.
Total Specific/ Dedicated Grants Administered:	24.337	21.273	3.064	-	
Total Revenue Grants	92.052	68.978	3.256	19.818	
Capital Ringfenced Grants:					
Emergency Active Travel Fund - Phase 2	2.233	0.275	-	1.958	Capital funding to protect and increase travel services.
Total Capital Ringfenced Grants	2.233	0.275	-	1.958	
Overall Total Grants	94.285	69.253	3.256	21.776	