



<b>Subject:</b>	Covid19 – Extension of Red Cross Funding
<b>Date:</b>	12 October, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this paper is to request an extension of the existing COVID-19 Emergency Provision Red Cross Funding to the end of March 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agree an extension to the COVID-19 Emergency Provision Red Cross Funding contract to the end of March 2022 as detailed in the report.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Key Issues</b> Members will be aware, a significant amount of additional funding has been provided by both Council and central government over the past 18 months for community/voluntary partners supporting individuals, families and communities impacted by COVID-19.

3.2	<p>That support has broadly been in the areas of food provision, access to food, financial assistance (fuel/utilities) and connectivity.</p>
3.3	<p>During this time our community/voluntary partners have worked extremely hard on ensuring the committed funding has supported services to vulnerable individuals, families and communities in the context of ever changing COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
	<p><b>Red Cross Funding</b></p>
3.4	<p>Members may recall that one of the organisations Council funded was Red Cross, with £50,000 awarded to provide the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community Support Essentials – responding to vulnerable in need to buy supplies.</li><li>2. Community Support Pick up essentials – e.g. food, prescription pick-ups.</li><li>3. Financial Hardship Fund – purchase of gas, electric and white goods.</li><li>4. Transport to essential medical appointments.</li></ol>
3.5	<p>This project was set up to be used as a fall back where existing services could not meet the demand from vulnerable individuals and families who required urgent support during the pandemic or if no services existed. We can update that due to the work of local community organisations and statutory partners this service was not required to the level that we initially expected.</p>
3.6	<p>The project has a funding agreement in place which allows delivery until the end of September 2021, currently £9,297 has been spent to date, leaving a balance of £40,703. This emergency support has provided a helpful safety net to ensure that adequate support is in place for the most vulnerable people in the city when they are unable to access help elsewhere. Within the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and rapidly approaching winter pressures it is recommended that this funding agreement is extended until the end of March 2022 to allow further uptake.</p>
3.7	<p>Whilst Officers cannot be sure of the exact level of demand from this service, Officers from the Red Cross and Council will continue to engage with community and health partners to maximise awareness of the support available through this funding agreement.</p>
3.8	<p>The reason for the request to extend is there are some factors which may lead to increased demand over the coming months such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The pressures that those who are vulnerable may face during the winter;</li><li>• The recent spike in utility costs will increase financial pressures on vulnerable people;</li></ul>

3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furlough coming to an end;</li> <li>• Any further circuit breakers, lockdowns or other forms of restrictions that we may face.</li> </ul> <p>To extend this funding agreement over the coming months causes no issues from a financial and operational management perspective. Members are therefore asked to consider that Council will extend the delivery period for the above funding to end March 2022.</p> <p><u>Financial implications</u></p>
3.10	<p>Financial implications are detailed in the body of the report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.11	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None