

General Fund Covid-19 Financial Impact 2020/21

1. The financial impact of Covid-19 has been significant, with additional expenditure being incurred on response and recovery to the pandemic, supporting residents and businesses. There has also been a substantial loss of income to the Council from a reduced use of services, particularly The Pulse, car parks and planning, and also other loss of income such as reduced rental income due to approved rent holidays as well as non-payment of rents, and also reduced investment income due to lower interest rates. There were also reductions in income from the Museum in the Park, but these have been offset within year savings from reduced running costs due to the closure.
2. The below table shows a summary of the financial impact, which for directly provided services totals £4.115m.

Impact on Services:

	£k
Loss of Income	
Car Parks	578
The Pulse	1,088
Development Control	235
Building Control	147
Other fees and charges	50
Rental Income	342
Investment Income	259
Revenues enforcement income	169
Total loss of income	2,868
Additional Expenditure	
Homelessness	198
Ubico - waste and cleaning	88
PPE and facilities management costs	67
Community Grants	50
Externally funded Community grants	24
Communications with residents	56
Additional staff	89
IT software and equipment	41
Support for SLM (Stratford Park Leisure Centre)	195
Elections	15
Reopening the High Street	36
One Legal - loss of income	17
Compliance and enforcement	28
Council Tax Hardship funding	314
Other identified costs	29
Total additional expenditure	1,247
Total Financial Impact of Covid-19	4,115

3. In order to support local authorities, Government have made large amounts of grant funding available, with general Local Authority Support grant of £1.486m, and a specific Sales, Fees and Charges scheme to offset some of the lost income due to the pandemic. In total £3.642m has been received to help offset the costs incurred.

External Funding Received

Covid Funding Received for Services		£k
Central Government		
Local Authority Support*		1,486
Sales, fees and charges scheme*		1,322
New burdens funding*		302
BID funding		31
Council Tax Hardship*		314
Sport England*		127
Reopening the High Street		36
* further funding available or carried forward to 2021/22		
Total Central Government support		3,618
Other sources (Magnarox and Lottery)		24
Total Funding Received		3,642

4. Stroud District Council has also been involved in providing services funded by Gloucestershire County Council, with staff undertaking or managing the workstreams.

Workstreams undertaken with County funding		£k
Community grants including winter grants and food		75
Community Outbreak Management Fund		36
Covid Marshal		24
Total (some work will continue into 21/22)		135

5. Government has also made considerable amounts of business support available during the year, and also Test and Trace support payments of £500 for residents who would be face financial hardship when being asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.
6. In total £36.860m was paid to businesses in business grants up to 31 March 2021, and £98k to residents in support payments.

Government funded business and resident support		£k
Grants to businesses		36,860
Test and Trace Support Payments (£500)		98
Total		36,958