

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

OFFICER DECISION REPORT

Report Title	TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT SCHEME			
Purpose of Report	To record the decision made with regards to adopting a Test and Trace Support Scheme.			
Decision(s)	A decision has been made to a. Adopt the Test and Trace Support Scheme for Stroud District Council			
Consultation and Feedback	Group Leaders of all four parties have been consulted together with the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer.			
Report Author	Simon Killen Revenue and Benefits Manager Email: simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	None			
Background Papers	Government Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support			
Appendices	SDC Test and Trace Payment Scheme			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. Test and Trace Support Scheme

1.1 Eligibility for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment is restricted to people who:

- are on a low income
- have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- are employed or self-employed;
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and
- are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

2. Discretionary payment

- 2.1 Local authorities can make a £500 discretionary payment to individuals who:
- are on a low income
 - have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
 - are employed or self-employed; and
 - are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.
- 2.2 In addition, the discretionary payment is for people:
- who are not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and
 - who are on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating.
- 2.3 For both the Test and Trace Support Payment and discretionary payments, eligible individuals will receive their £500 payment on top of any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) that they currently receive.

3. Application Process

- 3.1 Arrangements have been put in place to process and verify applications, issue payments to successful applicants and prevent and detect fraud.
- 3.2 SDC has its own online application system – and an alternative system for non-digital users (a paper form that will be available upon request or an application can be completed over the phone).
- 3.3 To apply, applicants will complete the online form (or a telephone application if digitally excluded) and provide SDC with:
- A notification from NHS Test and Trace asking them to self-isolate:
 - Proof of receipt of one of the qualifying benefits:
 - A bank statement; and
 - Proof of employment or, if they are self-employed, evidence of self-assessment returns, trading income and proof that their business delivers services which cannot be undertaken without social contact.
- 3.4 Once this evidence has been verified and the correct proofs provided, SDC will pay the applicant £500. This payment should be made within three working days of receiving a completed application.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The scheme is adopted and implemented by Stroud District Council with immediate effect.

5 Financial Implications

The scheme is fully funded by central government

Andrew Cummings – Strategic Director of Resources

Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk

6 Legal Implications

Arrangements have been put in place to ensure compliance with GDPR including a data sharing agreement and a new privacy notice.

Patrick Arran - Monitoring Officer

Email: patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk

7 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

8 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category