

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date of Decision	2 April 2020
Decision Maker	David Griffiths – Head of Commercial / Andy Moran Commercial Consultant
Brief Description of Decision	<p>To secure an immediate and reliable food supply chain to provide emergency food supplies to vulnerable Worcestershire citizens who are finding it difficult or unable to provide food for themselves as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>COVID-19 is placing severe stress on the food supply chain, including supermarkets, home deliveries and voluntary services such as street kitchens and food banks.</p> <p>Depending on the duration of COVID-19 and the subsequent effects on the health and economy of the Worcestershire community, the Council's reliable food supply chain is forecasted to be required for 3 to 6 months.</p> <p>The cost of this support is estimated to be £300,000. This is expected to be funded from the grant received by Worcestershire County Council from Central Government in relation to COVID-19.</p>
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>The established food supply chain has been disrupted by the emergence of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panic buying has created food shortages in supermarkets • Self-isolation and shielding measures have created a high increase on demand for online food buying and subsequent home deliveries • Restaurants, cafes and canteens have closed • Street kitchens and food banks are unable to get supplies. <p>As a result, vulnerable Worcestershire citizens are in danger of being without food during the period of COVID-19. Vulnerable citizens include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough sleepers • Homeless • Elderly • Those at most risk to COVID-19 • Those without money • Residents in care homes.

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	<p>Discussions with Servest (County Hall campus caterers) has identified the potential to utilise its current supply chain as a reliable source of fresh produce and other food items.</p> <p>As the County Hall café is not in operation, food parcels can be prepared using this facility and distributed using the transport service. Servest staff have volunteered to provide the pick and pack labour to support this arrangement</p> <p>Individual emergency packs containing non-perishable goods can be procured from Wolverhampton City Council, which has an established food supply chain, given that it already supplies many schools.</p> <p>It is likely that the Council will need to procure, stock and distribute food to vulnerable citizens up to end June 2020. This date maybe extended if the need continues.</p> <p>Central Government food support for shielded community is limited and will not impact the reason for the decision required.</p> <p>Costs: The cost of Servest food boxes are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual pack (feeds 1 for 1 week) - £56.38 • Catering pack (feeds 10 for 1 week) - £436.61 <p>Individual emergency packs from Wolverhampton feed 1 for 3 days at a cost of £24.00</p> <p>Overall cost is likely to be around £300,000.</p> <p>All exemptions to the Procurement Code will be logged in a register.</p>
<p>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</p>	<p>Do nothing and wait until national supply is in place – rejected as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council receiving urgent requests for support with basic food provision by those who have been advised to remain at home but are unable to secure food delivery slots due to high demand. • Decision about how LA’s will be involved in national Government support for the shielded cohort yet to be established. • LAs being asked to house rough sleepers and the homeless.
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted</p>	<p>None</p>