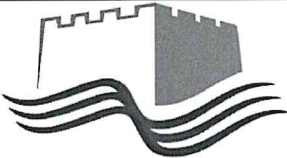


<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No: 193	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Neville Murton, Corporate Director of Resources (s151 Officer)	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>The Council's financial response to the Corona virus (COVID-19)</b>	

<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>	4 April 2020
<b>General Exception or Urgency Notice published?</b>	<b>Special Urgency Notice published 4 April 2020 following agreement from Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None
<b>Reason for seeking an Individual Mayoral Decision:</b>	Due to the Covid-19 Public Health emergency, Cabinet meetings are being postponed

### Executive Summary

This report sets out the first of a number of actions that are being carried out or are being planned by Tower Hamlets Council to support the borough through:

- the creation of a Service Investment Fund to pay for additional pressures caused by the Council's response to COVID-19;
- ensuring all new reliefs, discounts, grants and reductions are applied to all accounts for both residents and businesses throughout the borough;
- introducing a more flexible approach to income collection and enforcement to residents, businesses and other customers and users of council services;
- use existing processes to inform and update residents and businesses about new and existing reliefs, discounts, grants and reductions available to them;
- setting up Community Mobilisation arrangements; and,
- changes to cash flow options to ensure current providers have funds in place to deliver key services.

## **DECISION**

### **Recommendations:**

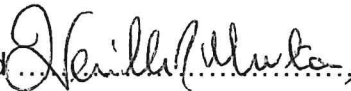
It is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the creation of a COVID-19 Service Investment Fund (SIF) to the value of £10.5m to be funded from the new COVID-19 Emergency Funding grant, to be utilised to fund the costs associated with the Council's response to COVID-19, as set in section 3.2 of the report.
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director, Corporate Resources (Section 151 officer) to implement the allocation of the SIF.
- 3) Introduce the 4-point plan (general measures) to assist all Business Rate, Council Tax and other customers including flexible payment plans and the suspension of enforcement action to be replaced with information on new reliefs, grants and discounts and signposting for those struggling to pay.
- 4) Introduce the specific measures in section 3.3 including the ability for self-employed people residing in the borough of Tower Hamlets to defer payment of their Council Tax initially for a period of up to 3 months.
- 5) Endorse the principle that all current providers of essential services to Tower Hamlets Council will continue to be paid on the basis of them providing the contracted service regardless of their temporary ability to fulfil their contractual obligations and delegate the authority to determine the providers to whom this applies to the Corporate Director, Resources (Section 151 officer).
- 6) Endorse the introduction of flexible payment terms to providers and suppliers to support their cash flow requirements as set out in section 3.4.
- 7) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Resources (Section 151 officer), in liaison with the Divisional Director of Legal Services, to execute any contract extension and variations, as set out in section 3.18.5.

## APPROVALS


**1. (If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor. I confirm that the Mayor and/or Lead Member have agreed to this decision being taken using this process.

Signed  Date 9/4/20

**2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  Date 9/4/20

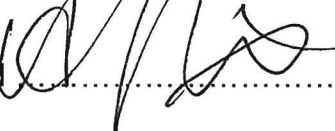
**3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

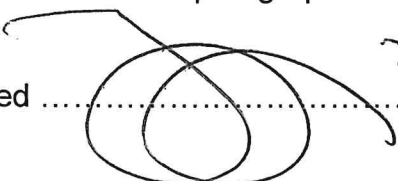
I confirm that this decision:-

(a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR  
(b) is urgent and subject to the 'General Exception' or 'Special Urgency' provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed  Date 9/4/20

**4. Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed in the recommendations above for the reasons set out in paragraph 1 in the attached report.

Signed  Date 9/4/20

