

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REQUEST TO APPOINT A TEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

PURPOSE

Our Environmental Health Service has been given responsibilities for the 'Test and Trace' and investigation of local outbreaks of Covid-19 in 'High Risk Places, Locations and Communities'. To fulfil this function the Director of Health and Wellbeing at Staffordshire County Council has provided Tamworth Borough Council with £50,000 funding to temporarily boost the capacity of the Environmental Health Service and provide an Out of Hours Emergency Response. We have already committed some of this funding to increase the hours of part time staff and implement an out of hour's rota.

It has become clear that the remainder of this funding needs to be focused on a technically qualified Environmental Health Officer (EHO) staff resource as we there is a need for us to contact multiple businesses and provide technical and legal advice on infection control procedures and the latest Test and Trace Regulations/Guidance. We are anticipating a surge in demand in the coming months and it is felt that we need to urgently increase capacity within the Environmental Health Service.

It is proposed that the remainder of the funding from Staffordshire County Council be used to employ a full time EHO for 7 months. Or if this is unsuccessful, to use an employment agency to appoint a full time EHO for a limited time period within the remaining budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee approve the request to employ a temporary full time Environmental Health Officer (EHO) for 7 months. If the recruitment process for this post is unsuccessful permission is then sought to appoint a full time agency EHO for a limited time period within the remaining budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staffordshire County Council has provided Tamworth Borough Council with £50,000 funding to temporarily boost the capacity of the Environmental Health Service to investigate local outbreaks and incidents of Covid-19 in high risk premises. It is proposed that this funding be used to appoint a temporary full time Environmental Health Officer (EHO) for a 7 month period. If recruitment to this post is unsuccessful it is proposed that a full time temporary EHO be appointed via a recruitment agency within the remaining funding.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The proposal will be funded directly from the £50,000 funding provided by Staffordshire County Council. If this funding is not spent it will need to be returned to Staffordshire County

Council. This additional post will commit £26,000 of the funding from Staffordshire County Council. The remaining amount of £24,000 has already been committed with an extension to an existing post holder's hours and to an extension of an agency environmental health officer, If the recruitment process for this additional post is unsuccessful and permission is granted to appoint an agency EHO then there will only be enough funding to appoint the agency EHO for 19 weeks.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

If this request is refused there is a risk that the Environmental Health service will not have the capacity to respond to localised outbreaks and incidents involving Covid-19.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

APPENDICES

None.