

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	18 August 2020
Title of Report:	Finance Update
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Andrew Hardingham (Service Director for Finance)
Author:	David Northey, Head of Integrated Finance
Contact Email:	david.northey@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	DJN.08/2020
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide a revenue position statement for 2020/21 and the implications for budget setting for 2021/22. It is important to recognise that this exercise has been undertaken in difficult circumstances. The Councils budget for 2020/21 was approved by Council only a matter of days before the country was placed into lockdown as a response to tackling the Covid 19 pandemic. The challenge for the Council in delivering services within the budget was immediately thrown into doubt as the Council grappled with responding to the Pandemic.

To help MHCLG collate and understand the pressures facing local authorities, they have introduced a monthly reporting cycle. As at 31 July 2020, PCC has completed four monthly returns to MHCLG. Plymouth City Council's July Return #4 is attached as a background paper.

Appendix A of this report is the letter in March 2020 from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government stating his gratitude for the support of local authorities and the financial assistance Government will provide.

Additional Costs

The July return sets out our latest calculation of the total additional costs for the financial year 2020/21 as a total of £27.763m. This includes some costs which can be reclaimed from the NHS via the Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG) and some which are fully compensated by ring-fenced funding such as the Infection Control Fund and the Test & Trace Grant.

Total additional gross costs	£27.763m
Less ring-fenced grants and reclaims	(£5.694m)
Total additional net costs	£22.069m

To date, the Government has supplemented the grant funding with three non-ring-fenced grants to compensate for the additional costs incurred totalling £18.203m. Of this, £0.496k was applied to finance pandemic related shortfalls in 2019/20 leaving £17.707m available for use in 2020/21. This is a shortfall of £4.362m for the current year.

Appendix B of this report is an extract from a letter from Alex Skinner Finance Director MHCLG setting out the Government's expectation of how this grant is to be used to compensate for additional costs.

The areas listed include Adult Social Care with particular support for providers and our central role in the critical national task of controlling the outbreak in care homes. The Government has announced an additional £600 million for infection control (PCC share is £3.125m) in care homes, this funding will support care homes to reduce the rate of transmission in, and between, care homes and support wider workforce resilience. Children's services to include pressures on the workforce as a result of COVID-19 related absences and any increased case management activity or cost for children in need, home to school transport, special education needs and disability, care-leavers, foster care, residential provision and the need for increased accommodation to address the need for isolation, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; and Public Health where Covid-19 has seen staff redeployment which has necessitated a change in service delivery model and increased pressure on the workforce.

Other areas are the Fire and Rescue services, which are not applicable to Plymouth City Council; waste management and the increased volume of household waste; shielding the clinically extremely vulnerable people; homelessness and rough sleeping; and domestic abuse.

Our costs also include £1.841m for personal protective equipment (PPE).

Temporary mortuary provision

Managing excess deaths is also listed with Councils using the funding for any costs relating to managing excess deaths, in response to an increased pressure to ordinary death management provision. As an immediate response to the need for additional capacity Plymouth City Council erected a temporary mortuary facility at the cost of £1.200m. This facility was always going to be the first response and has now been decommissioned with a second provision in place with an estimated cost of a further £0.250m. This total of £1.450m represents more than 8% of the available funding.

In comparison Devon have committed 4% of their grant and Cornwall, with the advantage of not having to construct a building spending just over 2% of their grant.

Plymouth City Council (PCC) continues to lobby the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the full cost recovery of the temporary mortuary. Like many other key cities across the country, Plymouth responded to the MHCLG's call for action and on the 2nd of March 2020, the MHCLG instructed Plymouth's Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to prepare for significant Covid mortality. In response, Plymouth City Council built the temporary mortuary to strengthen the anticipated increased pressure for ordinary death management provision. This was carried out on the full understanding that Plymouth City Council would be fully compensated, as verified by Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government who on the 4th May 2020 stated that "the MHCLG will stand behind council's and ensure they receive the funding they need to deliver the responsibilities that we are asking of them. So those things that we are asking Council's to do in response to Covid 19 which do involve significant extra costs, (we) will ensure that Councils are fully compensated for those".

Leisure

As part of our Covid-19 response we are being asked to financially support our leisure providers. The initial ask is to make up the lost income from the enforced closure of all facilities during the current financial year. We are also engaging with our provider to understand the projected impact of the closure on sports membership and reduced capacity in the sports halls and swimming pools running into the next financial year. This is included as a cost because our service has been outsourced and we are having to increase the amount of subsidy paid in order to ensure continuity of the service when we reopen the facilities. Leisure facilities are not included on the list of areas of spend. The government has clarified "We are aware that in a number of cases local authorities subsidise leisure services either directly or through a management charge. These authorities may have seen an unplanned increase in this budgeted expenditure because of Covid, which may be irrecoverable. This spending would not be in scope of the income scheme."

Irrecoverable lost income from Sales, Fees and Charges

On 2 July, the Secretary of State for Local Government announced a funding package for councils to help address the range of COVID-19 related income losses. This package included:

- A new scheme to reimburse councils for lost income from sales, fees, and charges and
- Changes so that local authorities spread their tax deficits over three years rather than the usual one

MHCLG have stated “The income scheme is designed to offset irrecoverable income losses that councils have been incurring so that they don’t negatively impact on authorities’ financial sustainability, specifically in balancing budgets for the 20/21 year”.

In essence, the lost income compensation scheme will involve a 5% deductible rate, whereby Plymouth City Council will absorb losses up to 5% of our planned sales, fees and charges income, with the government compensating for 75p in every pound of relevant loss thereafter. It was claimed that by introducing a 5% deductible the government is accounting for an acceptable level of volatility, whilst shielding authorities from the worst losses.

The July return sets out our latest calculation of the lost income for the financial year 2020/21 as a total of £16.379m. This includes our commercial income of £0.516m which the Government has specifically excluded from their compensation package. Included in our calculation is lost revenue from our car parks and on-street parking plus our fifty percent share of the lost toll income from the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, which for a long period suspended all charges.

Total irrecoverable lost income	£16.379m
Less commercial income	(£0.516m)
Eligible lost income	£15.863m

We are awaiting full confirmation of how council’s will be compensated and the reclaim mechanism, but it is understood the Section 151 Officer (Finance Director) will make a declaration in the coming months of the total losses with a full reconciliation and additional claim or refund at the end of the financial year. As it stands, we would be required to fund the 5% offset which equates to £0.793m plus the shortfall of twenty five pence for every pound lost being a further £3.768m; a total shortfall of £4.561m.

Collection Fund Deficits (Council Tax and Business Rates)

The Government have also made outline proposals to assist local authorities with managing losses within their collection fund for council tax and business rates.

As part of the support package announced on 2 July 2020 the Secretary of State said the Government “committed today to consider the apportionment of irrecoverable Council Tax and Business Rates losses between central and local government.”

Whilst this is another way to assist in managing the expected reduction in council tax income and business rates income it is only a temporary short term solution. It won’t be until the longer term impact of reduced income is fully assessed any meaningful financial support can be determined and provided. Local government needs to be fully compensated for all losses to this key revenue source.

Whilst over time council tax receipts may return to a more stable footing the impact of a long term recession and a structural change to the retail sector could result in a permanent reduction to business

rates receipts. This will not be sustainable in the medium to longer term to provide funding for the provision of existing services.

The Government also said “as these losses materialise in budgets in 2021-22, details of this measure will be determined at the Spending Review.” This was supported by an announcement that the repayment of collection fund deficits arising this year will be spread over the next three years rather than the usual one.

It is unfortunate that Government have not set out further details as to how this will work and until we see the details which will form part of the Spending Review it is difficult to fully assess how effective this will be. However, at this stage the ability to manage the inevitable deficit that will materialise is not sufficient and Plymouth will be urging government to fully fund any deficits in full.

Once further details are announced the council will set out how forecast collection fund deficits will be managed with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Use of Earmarked and other reserves

MHCLG include a specific section on the use of reserves, asking for confirmation of their understanding of the value of our earmarked and un-earmarked reserves, with the supplementary question of what value of drawdown of these reserves are we able to commit to funding the difference between our costs / lost income and the grant funding available. It should be noted that once used reserves are no longer available. Since 2015/16 the Council has not been able to replenish any draw from balances. The 2015/16 contribution was only achieved through the one off change to the way our Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) was calculated. In 2019/20 a sum of £3.5m was set aside from the pension refinance. This has been drawn down into the Revenue budget for 2020/21 to fund the primary contribution rate increase. The Council is holding £24.668m of earmarked reserves. Of that total £17m have specific terms and conditions attached rendering them unavailable to support the Council's General Fund. A further £2.5m is set aside in relation to property matters. It is recommended that these be retained to enable the Council to benefit over the life time of the assets held; to meet rent free periods and voids. In considering the ability to deliver within budget we must recognise that the 2020/21 working balance currently stands at £8.050m, which is below the recommended five percent (5%) of net revenue budget.

Other Grant Funding

The Council has also been in receipt of a further £56.735m in grant funding, as set out in the table below. The majority of these funds were ring-fenced to passport through to various organisations such as care homes and small businesses and a “new burdens” grant of £0.170m to be used to meet additional costs incurred by the Council. **Appendix C** shows the detail covering each of these grants.

Table I: Other Grants Received

Covid-19 Grant Funding	£m	Comment
Hardship Relief Grant	2.500	Ring-fenced for Council Tax Support
Infection Control Fund	3.125	Ring-fenced for Care providers (including Domiciliary Care)
Bus Grant	0.033	Ring-fenced to Bus Operators
Homelessness Grant	0.014	Ring-fenced to homelessness
Reopening High Streets Safely Fund	0.233	Ring-fenced
Test & Trace Grant	1.402	Ring fenced to containment of COVID19
Emergency Active Travel fund	1.244	Ring-fenced; first tranche £0.249m
New Burdens grant	0.170	Unring-fenced
Defra Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies	0.343	Ring-fenced
Small Business Grant	45.400	Ring-fenced to local businesses*
Discretionary Business Grants	2.271	Ring-fenced in accordance with local scheme; based on an additional 5% of Small Business Grant Scheme £45.4m
TOTAL OTHER GRANTS	56.735	

* Under the **Small Business Grant Scheme**, we were originally allocated £47.4m of which we distributed £45.4m in accordance with the government guidance. Government then announced a discretionary scheme allowing local authorities to spend 5% of the grants awarded (i.e. 5% of £45.4m). In terms of cash we allocated this discretionary amount from the original £47.4m and received a small top up of £200k to bring the cash into line at £2.271m.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to

1. Note financial position for Plymouth City Council as set out in this report;
2. Work with Strategic and Service Directors to consider options to ensure we minimise any call on our reserves to balance the 2020/21 budget
3. Continue to lobby central government departments to ensure the grant funding and income compensation schemes fully cover the additional costs and lost income incurred by the Council

Alternative options considered and rejected

None – our Financial Regulations require us to produce regular reporting of our finance resources.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Robust and accurate financial reporting underpins the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which is updated regularly based on on-going monitoring information, both on a local and national context. Any adverse variations from the annual budget will place pressure on the MTFP going forward and require additional savings to be generated in future years.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No impacts directly arising from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

The reducing revenue and capital resources across the public sector has been identified as a key risk within our Strategic Risk register. The additional costs and loss of income attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic is placing unprecedented pressure on our resources. The ability to deliver spending plans is paramount to ensuring the Council can achieve its objectives to be a Pioneering, Growing, Caring and Confident City.

Appendices

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Letter from Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government							
B	Extract from MHCLG Finance Director letter							
C	Details covering Other Grants received							

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MHCLG Return July 2020							

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andrew Hardingham (Service Director for Finance)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 13/08/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry (approved in briefing meeting)											
Date approved: 13/08/2020											

APPENDIX A

Letter dated 20 March 2020, from Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Dear Colleague,

Local authorities are already playing a vital role in supporting our communities and local economies during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Prime Minister, my Cabinet colleagues and I are extremely grateful for this. I am writing to you to set out further detail on the Covid-19 emergency local government funding package announced today, and to confirm that my Department has now published guidance to local authorities on the implementation of the Expanded Business Rates Retail Discount 2020-21.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

You will have seen the announcement of £1.6bn of additional funding to support local authorities in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. This funding is intended to help you address the pressures you are facing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic across all the services you deliver.

In particular, this funding should enable you to do the following:

Meet the increased demand for adult social care and enable councils to provide additional support to social care providers. From what you have told us, we expect that the majority of this funding will need to be spent on providing the Adult Social Care services required to respond to the Coronavirus crisis.

CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Group) will separately be funding additional costs of discharging and keeping people out of hospital, including social care costs - commissioned by the local authority unless existing local arrangements suggest otherwise. It is essential that 'boundary issues' do not cause delays. Therefore, we would expect the local authority to place an appropriate portion of the funding they choose to dedicate to adult social care from the £1.6bn into a pooled budget with the local CCG, to ensure that there is no risk of debates about which fund should pay.

Meet the cost of extra demand and higher business-as-usual costs of providing children's social care, including as a result of school closures and the need for increased accommodation to address the need for isolation, including for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We recognise the existing funding pressures on children's social care, and the additional pressures Covid-19 will make, and are in close contact with the Association of Directors of Children's Services. Furthermore, the Government is continuing to pay funding to local authorities for the free early years entitlements during any periods of nursery, preschool or childminder closures, or where children cannot attend due to Covid-19.

Provide additional support for the homeless and rough sleepers, including where self-isolation is needed. This is on top of the £3.2m emergency fund announced on 17 March to help rough sleepers, or those at risk of rough sleeping, to self-isolate.

Support those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, who may soon be asked to self-isolate in their homes for the duration of the pandemic. This funding is available to support initial costs incurred by LAs in their critical role in supporting those within the most clinically high-risk cohort who also have no reliable social network (i.e. who are both at high risk clinically and socially). The model for this support and the role local authorities will play in it has been discussed closely with the LGA and the 9 regional chief executives. We will keep costs closely under review.

Meet pressures across other services, as a result of reduced income, rising costs or increased demand.

We will pay the grant in full upfront, in line with the allocations set out in annex to this letter. I expect payments to be made on Friday 3 April. The grant will not be ringfenced. I will look to bring forward some other grant payments where possible to support cashflow.

I expect that this grant will cover all costs incurred in the first phase of the response, but we will keep this under review. To support this, we will be asking you to provide a high-level breakdown of how you intend to allocate this grant and we will send you further information on this in due course. This is purely for planning purposes, and to support our ongoing assessment of costs. We will continue to monitor the costs of other schemes local government is being asked to deliver as part of the Covid-19 response. However, we must recognise that these are not normal times, and your support stepping up to deliver these vital services is both recognised and greatly appreciated.

THE EXPANDED BUSINESS RATES RETAIL DISCOUNT 2020-21

At the Budget the Chancellor announced that the business rates retail discount would be increased to 100% and expanded to cover the leisure and hospitality sectors, as part of the Government's response to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the 17 March the Chancellor confirmed that the Government would also be removing the £51,000 rateable value threshold for the expanded retail discount. I am writing to confirm that my Department has now published guidance to local authorities on the implementation of the expanded relief. The guidance has been shared directly with your officials and can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance

Given the importance of this additional support for local businesses, I would encourage you to do all you can to ensure that revised bills are issued as quickly as possible to qualifying ratepayers, to confirm that they will not need to pay any rates for this year.

Local authorities will be fully compensated for the loss of income associated with granting the expanded relief. My Department will be taking forward arrangements for payment of that compensation, and for the provision of appropriate new burdens funding to cover the administrative costs of implementation.

State aid

I understand there have been questions from local authorities about the applicability of state aid limits to the provision of this relief. As set out in the guidance, the Government has notified the European Union of its intention to bring forward an immediate change to the UK's tax treatment of non-domestic property, in response to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency, and to seek clearance under Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Subject to this approval, the expanded retail discount scheme will become a notified state aid, which would allow authorities to award the discount ignoring de-minimis state aid limits. My Department will communicate the outcome of the notification to local authorities as soon as it is known.

Nurseries

You may have separately seen that the Department for Education has also announced that to support nurseries, the Chancellor has decided that they will also now be eligible for a business rates holiday for one year. That means non-local authority providers of childcare will pay no business rates in 2020-21, from 1 April. Local authorities will also be fully compensated for the cost of this measure, and guidance for local authorities on the application of the holiday will be published by MHCLG shortly.

We will continue to monitor the impact of Covid-19 on local government, and would ask that any local authority contact MHCLG officials if faced with immediate unmanageable financial pressures.

Finally, I want to extend my personal thanks to you and all the staff working so tirelessly in local government during these difficult times. We must keep working together to protect and support the local communities we serve. We can get through this together.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP

APPENDIX B

Extract from MHCLG Finance Director

Adult social care – Councils should use the funding provided to meet the increased costs for adult social care as a result of COVID-19 and to provide additional support to social care providers who need help with COVID-19 related costs. This could include those with whom councils do not have contracts if they are under financial strain. Councils have a role in ensuring that, in particular, small providers are aware of the support and advice available to them and are acting upon it. As part of this local authorities have a central role in the critical national task of controlling the outbreak in care homes. The Government has announced an additional £600 million for infection control (PCC share is £3.125m see below) in care homes, this funding will support care homes to reduce the rate of transmission in, and between, care homes and support wider workforce resilience.

Children's services – The funding provided by Government should meet extra costs in children's services including: pressures on the workforce as a result of COVID-19 related absences and any increased case management activity or cost for children in need, home to school transport, special education needs and disability, care-leavers, foster care, residential provision and the need for increased accommodation to address the need for isolation, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Public Health – The response to COVID-19 has seen an increased pressure on public health services, in particular, drug and alcohol treatment services, sexual and reproductive health services and support for children and families. In line with NHS Community Health Services guidance, local authorities are operating a minimum level of service but social distancing measures and staff absence/redeployment has necessitated a change in service delivery model and increased pressure on the workforce.

Fire and rescue services – not applicable to Plymouth City Council

Waste management services – The Government recognises the pressures which have been placed on waste management services as a result of the pandemic. Part of this funding allocation is therefore to address the increase in volume of household waste being generated, as households are switching consumption away from restaurants and workplaces to the home.

Shielding the clinically extremely vulnerable people – Government has asked councils to provide support for the 2.2 million clinically vulnerable people who are shielding themselves from the virus by staying at home. This includes meeting the basic care needs of those shielding (for example through check in and chats), making contact with people where the national call centre has tried to be in contact with them but been unable to/the contact has been inconclusive, and coordinating food packages for those with special dietary requirements.

Homelessness and rough sleeping – Government has asked local leaders to help rough sleepers into alternative accommodation. This was to protect their health and stop wider transmission, particularly in hot spot areas, and included those in assessment centres and shelters that are unable to comply with social distancing advice.

Domestic abuse – The Government has also asked that councils ensure domestic abuse services are well supported and equipped to deal with what are already challenging situations, and even more so during these uncertain times. Councils should prioritise supporting survivors of domestic abuse into safe accommodation, providing support where councils deem it necessary in order to protect victims. Councils should work closely with domestic abuse safe accommodation providers to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their families, including those out of area, can be provided with safe emergency accommodation with appropriate support to avoid further pressures on frontline homelessness services.

Managing excess deaths – Councils should use the funding for any costs relating to managing excess deaths, in response to an increased pressure to ordinary death management provision.

APPENDIX C

Details Covering Other Grants Received

Hardship Fund £2.5m

We have been allocated £2.5m to support those in hardship. We currently have 12,821 live working age Council Tax Support (CTS) claims that will qualify for the £150 discount to be applied to their accounts (we are still waiting for the software to enable us to do this). This equates to £1.923m. This would leave funding to apply the same level of discount to another 4,300 CTS claims. There are currently 787 new claims to be processed but this includes new HB claims that may or may not qualify. Current figures suggest 30% of new CTS claims do not qualify.

An additional £63 million has been confirmed by government (Thursday 11 June) to be distributed to local authorities in England to help those who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to coronavirus.

Infection control £3.125m

The purpose of the grant is to provide support to adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience to deliver infection control. The grant must only be used to support care homes and domiciliary providers to tackle the risks of COVID-19 infections. We have been allocated £3.125m. Of this 75% is to be allocated to Care Homes based on the number of Beds (£2.344m) and the remaining 25% (£0.781m) must be allocated by the local authority to care homes or domiciliary care providers to be used for infection control measures and to support wider domiciliary care workforce resilience, however local authorities are able to allocate based on need.

Bus Grant £0.033m

Homelessness £0.014m

Rough sleeping - Rough sleepers, or those at risk of rough sleeping have been supported by £3.2 million of initial emergency funding if they need to self-isolate to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This funding was announced in **March** and has been made available to all local authorities in England and reimburses them for the cost of providing accommodation and services to those sleeping on the streets to help them successfully self-isolate.

The total amount of grant made available to Plymouth to be claimed by 1 June is £14,250. This fund is targeted at those who are currently rough sleeping or in accommodation where bedrooms are shared or there is dormitory style provision, and who are, as a result, unable to follow guidance on self-isolation.

Reopening High Streets Safely Fund £0.233m

The Reopening High Streets Safely Fund was launched by MHCLG on 24 May 2020 and awards a share of a total of £50m European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding to Local Authorities across England on a per capita basis. The purpose of the grant is to help councils introduce a range of measures designed to help restart the local economy in their towns and cities.

The money will allow local authorities in England to put in place additional measures to establish a safe trading environment for businesses and customers, particularly in high streets, through measures that extend to the end of March 2021. The Fund will provide councils with additional funding to support their business communities with measures that enable safe trading in public places. The Fund will particularly focus on our high streets, as well as other public places that are at the heart of towns and cities gearing up to reopen as safe, welcoming spaces. The Fund will support 4 main strands of activity:

- Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies.
- Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely
- Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely
- Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely

Test and Trace Service (£300m to share) £1.4m

- Local authorities to work with government to support test and trace services in their local communities
- £300 million will be provided to all local authorities in England to develop and action their plans to reduce the spread of the virus in their area
- Work will build on the continued efforts of communities across the country to respond to the pandemic locally

Work will be led by local authority leaders and local directors of public health in charge of planning, and will build on their work to date to respond to coronavirus locally. They will operate in close partnership with local hospitals, GP practices, businesses, religious groups, schools and charities

Emergency active travel fund £1.244m

The funding has been calculated using census data (all residents aged 16 and over in employment who use public transport as their usual method of travel to work) and hence weighted towards areas with high public transport use i.e. Plymouth. It is for the delivery of emergency active travel schemes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main purpose is to promote cycling as a replacement for journeys previously made by public transport. The DfT have advised that to receive any money Councils need to show 'swift and meaningful plans to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians, including on strategic corridors' with the DfT advising that the quickest way of doing this (and hence something they'd expect to see) being point closures although pop up cycle lanes would also be funded. The DfT have made specific reference to 20mph zones and, whilst they can be funded as part of a package, they are not considered sufficient on their own.

The funding is in 2 tranches. Tranche:

- 1 supports the installation of temporary projects for the COVID-19 pandemic £0.249m
- 2 the creation of longer term projects £0.995m.

Small Business Grant and Discretionary Business Grants

In response to the Coronavirus, Covid-19, the Government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. This support takes the form of two grant funding schemes in Financial Year 2020/2021, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. Plymouth City Council received the funding of £47.671m and were tasked with contacting local businesses to ensure the funds were distributed as per the instructions from MHCLG. No monies have been retained by the council with all of the funds passed to the recipient businesses.