

**DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED**  
**Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER**

**KEY DECISION Subject:** Local Community Budgets

**DECISION TAKER:**

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:**

This key decision was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national Coronavirus Emergency. Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

**DECISION TAKEN:**

That Local Community Budgets (LCB's) be extended from the original date of 22 March to the 27 March due to the cancellation of local elections and the lifting of Purdah. Councillors signed of final applications on 29 March with the remaining total of £8,858.00 being pledged to either supporting the local community response to Covid-19 or climate change.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:** National Government postponed local elections until 2021

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:** None

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The remaining LCB budgets of £8,858.00 for 2019\20 have been pledged by Councillor's to the following.

£5,588 for the Stevenage Helps Campaign

£2,610 for climate change initiatives

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

One of the consequences to the government's decision to postpone local government elections was that the pre-election period requirements were lifted for 2020, the Council were therefore able to extend the LCB period on this basis.

**EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

Applications for LCB's are open and available to the whole residential community and groups within Stevenage.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

The consultees concurred with the opportunity to extend the LCB process period and members recommended that any councillor that still had LCB funds available could commit funds to either or both projects to support the community response to Covid-19 or climate change initiatives

Executive and Opposition Group Leaders

Strategic Leadership Team

**Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

**Signed:**

**Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:**

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION: 22 March 2020**