

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 31 AUGUST 2021

COVID-19 FUNDING AND SPEND 2020/21

REPORT BY IAN LORIMER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ABSTRACT

This report updates members on the funding received by Angus Council during financial year 2020/21 from the Scottish Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the value of what was spent, how this funding has been used to support people and businesses in the Angus community and the proposed use of any remaining funding in future years.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) Note the detailed funding received from the Scottish Government in 2020/21, the spend through financial year 2020/21 and proposed spend of the balance in future years, contained in appendices A, B & C of this report.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following strategic priorities in the Angus Council Plan, we want:

- Angus to be a go-to place for businesses
- Our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reference is made to report 211/20 to Angus Council on the 10 September 2020 which approved revisions to the Council's 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Budget. The estimated budget revisions were at both service level and overall terms to take into account the estimated, at that time, impact Covid-19 may have on the Council's finances. The report also set out the estimated funding that the Scottish Government had agreed to provide to Local Authorities to assist with these additional costs based on announcements at that time. In addition the Council has been asked to administer on behalf of the Scottish Government a very wide range of COVID-19 support measures including business support grants, support for people shielding, investment in additional staff and equipment in schools and other welfare support measures to name a few.

3.2 This report provides the final position on the total funding that the Council received from the Scottish Government in 2020/21, the amount of this funding used in 2020/21 and the balance that remains which is currently earmarked in the General Fund Reserve. The report also provides information on the proposed use of this balance in future years (Appendix A & B). This report also details the funding that was received from the Scottish Government where the Council acted as an agent and processed payments to businesses and residents of Angus to assist them in dealing with the impact of the pandemic (Appendix C).

3.3 The additional funding which the Council has managed during 2020/21 has been very significant and officers believe it is important to show what funding has been received and how it has been used across the whole of the 2020/21 financial year. The report demonstrates just how significant the Council's role has been in supporting Angus communities during the pandemic.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Scottish Government provided and continues to provide Local Authorities with 2 different classifications of grant funding; “principal” being where the Council is acting on its own behalf and “agency” where the Council is acting as an intermediary. These classifications of grant are required to be treated differently in the Council’s annual accounts for 2020/21 and beyond and for the benefit of this report we are reporting each classification separately. We are further splitting the principal grants into service specific and non-specific.

4.2 Principal Service Specific Funding

Appendix A details the wide range of Government funding received that had specific conditions attached which related to the role of a specific service within the Council. The majority of funding within this classification related to the Education and Lifelong Learning service where the pandemic had the greatest impact on learning within our schools and the needs of our most vulnerable young people.

4.3 Principal Non-specific Funding

Appendix B details the Government funding received which did not have specific conditions attached and therefore the Council was able to use this funding on a wholly discretionary basis. It will be noted from Appendix B that a large amount of this funding did not require to be used in 2020/21. The loss of income consequential funding has been earmarked in the Covid-19 contingency reserve and the general Covid-19 funding was allocated late in 2020/21 and has been earmarked in the General Fund Reserve for future years.

4.4 Agency Funding

Appendix C details the Government funding received where Local Authorities were to act on behalf of the Scottish Government by administering and delivering a wide variety of grants to the local community based on set criteria. Most of this was support for local businesses which were in the main asked to submit applications which were then assessed and processed to help mitigate the impact of Covid-19.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no new financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Committee’s attention is, however, drawn to the summary of each classification of grant funding in the table below:

Table 1 – Summary of Scottish Government Grant Funding

Grant	Appendix	2020/21 Funding Received £000	2020/21 Spend £000	Balance available for future years £000	Future Years Commitments £000
Principal – Service Specific	A	12,218	5,925	6,293	5,643
Principal – Non-Specific	B	11,783	6,338	5,445	1,634
Agency	C	34,233	34,233	0	0
TOTAL		58,234	46,496	11,738	7,277

5.2 The detail of the Service Specific principal funding and spend is set out in Appendix A, Non-Specific principal funding and spend is set out in Appendix B and the detail of the Agency funding subsequently distributed by Angus Council is set out in Appendix C. These appendices also explain where applicable the plans for any funding not spent during 2020/21.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

NOTE: The background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report is as set out below :

Angus Council Report 211/20

Angus Council Report 221/20

Angus Council Report 282/20

Angus Council Report 143/21

Angus Council Report 145/21

REPORT AUTHOR: JILL RENNIE, TEAM LEADER (Finance)

EMAIL DETAILS: FINANCE@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

Appendix A - Scottish Government Principal Service Specific Funding & Spend

Appendix B - Scottish Government Principal Non-Specific Funding & Spend

Appendix C - Scottish Government Agency Funding