

COVID Grants - Environment & Community Services Portfolio

1. General Grant - £3,238k

During 2020/21, the Government provided 4 tranches of emergency funding to support local authorities through Covid-19, with the Council receiving £22,877k. An additional amount of £7,795k was also allocated for 2021/22 to further address ongoing financial pressures, resulting in a total amount received of £30,672k.

This grant is not ringfenced and local authorities have discretion as to how this grant is allocated to address Covid-19 pressures that they identify in their boroughs. In 2020/21, a total of £16,371k was applied across all portfolio where the financial impacts of Covid were not met from other ringfenced Covid grants.

A total amount of £3,238k of this was allocated to this Portfolio in 2020/21. The most significant element related to the impact on parking and enforcement income not eligible to be funded from the Income Loss Compensation grant.

The allocation to this Portfolio's services for 2021/22 has yet to be confirmed, but a indicative amount of £440k in total has been assumed in latest monitoring from all unringfenced Covid grant sources.

2. Income Loss Compensation Grant - £4,186k

In addition to the general grant, the Government provided for a grant scheme designed to compensate for irrecoverable losses of qualifying transactional income from sales, fees and charges. The schemes provided for the whole of 2020/21 but only first quarter of 2021/22. The amount of grant does not meet eligible income losses in full, and local authorities have been required to meet the first 5% of budgeted losses, with grant then paid at 75% of the resultant net loss.

Based on this formula, grant of £4,186k was received in 2020/21 by this Portfolio for eligible income losses which again largely related to the impact on parking and enforcement activity.

The grant scheme is also operating for the first quarter of 2021/22 only, but the allocations have yet to be confirmed by the Government.

3. Contain Outbreak Management Fund - £1,132k

The Contain Outbreak Management Fund is another unringfenced grant intended to provide support in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.

In 2020/21, £1,132k was agreed under delegated authority to be allocated to this Portfolio, mostly in respect of the various pressures arising as a result of the pandemic on waste services.

4. Traffic and Transport Grants - £691k

Under statutory guidance issued in May 2020, local highway authorities were required to make substantial changes to their streets to support social distancing for those travelling to work, to the shops, to schools or more generally. These had to be able to be implemented in a matter of weeks and not months/years. The Government made funds available to London boroughs via TfL, DfT and MHCLG to implement these measures, mostly through a bidding process, with a smaller part via a fixed allocation.

A report was presented to a special ECS PDS meeting on 8 June 2020 where a programme was set out for Members to agree, such that bids could be made for funding, with powers delegated to the Director of Environment and Public Protection to implement successful bids, in line with any feedback received from Members in respect to that report. The recommendations from this report were signed off by the Portfolio Holder on 9 June 2020. The following three funding streams were covered by this process.

London Streetspace Fund - £346k

After a bid to the London Streetspace Fund, a grant of £346k was made available to Bromley as part of a wider grant to London Boroughs.

This has now been spent on the following:

- Temporary social distancing measures / barriers outside schools
- School Streets signage, barriers and monitoring
- Three zebra crossings (Shortlands and Penge)
- Two segregated cycle routes
- Part time 20mph signs outside schools

Reopening High Streets Safely Fund - £295k

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government announced the Reopening the High Street Fund on the 29th May 2020, with councils across England to share £50m of additional funding to support the safe reopening of high streets and other commercial areas. The money was to 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 extended to the end of June 2021.

This has now been spent on the following:

- Social distancing measures in town and village centres
- Provision of barriers and planters to facilitate outside dining
- Advice to businesses on reopening safely
- Development of a Recovery and Resilience Plan for businesses

Emergency Active Travel Fund - £50k

After a bid to the DfT Emergency Active Travel Fund, a grant of £50k was made available to Bromley as part of a wider grant to London Boroughs.

This has now been spent on the following:

- One pedestrian refuge and adjacent parking controls
- One zebra crossing and high friction surfacing

5. Compliance & Enforcement Grant - £145k

This grant was ringfenced for any activity that supported compliance and enforcement of measures to control the spread of COVID-19 across individuals, businesses and in the community.

The grant guidance recognised that local authorities were best placed to determine the compliance and enforcement activity most appropriate for their areas and which would have the biggest impact on limiting the spread of COVID-19 locally.

Consequently, the following allocations in 2020/21 were approved and were fully spent as follows:

	£'000
Covid Enforcement Patrols	30
Support to Covid Compliance (Commercial)	79
Body Cameras for officer safety on patrols	9
Sanitisers and protective clothing	1
Social distancing signage in town centres	26
Total	145