

# WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
<b>Date Of Decision</b>	16 March 2022
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Abraham Ezekiel, Assistant Director Legal and Governance
<b>Brief Description Of Decision</b>	To allow carry forward of unspent divisional fund money of up to £2,000 per Councillor from 2021/22 to 2022/23 financial year
<b>Reason(s) For Decision</b>	<p>The Divisional Fund scheme allocates £10,000 per Councillor each financial year for them to spend on initiatives and activities which benefit their division. The scheme governing this allows each Councillor to carry forward up to £1,000 of uncommitted fund from one financial year to the next.</p> <p>County Council elections took place in May 2021 so Councillors could not start allocating the divisional fund until 6 weeks or so into the financial year, missing the opportunity for spend in that time. The impact of the Covid pandemic has meant that many community events to which funds would usually be allocated have not taken place, and some members have not been able to allocate the full £10,000 in 2021/22. It is therefore reasonable to enable each member to carry up to £2,000 from this financial year into 2022/23 as the Covid restrictions are lifted in full and many more community events and initiatives are due to take place.</p>
<b>Alternative Options Considered And Rejected</b>	<p>To leave the carry forward limit unchanged at £1,000. This would potentially mean the ability of councillors to support activities in their communities as they resume post Covid restrictions could be reduced, which is against the spirit of the fund.</p> <p>Allow greater than £2,000 to be carried forward. This is not supported as it potentially penalises those councillors that have spent in year and creates a larger balance remaining unspent at the end of 2022/23.</p>
<b>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted</b>	N/A
<b>Reference</b>	01/2022