

COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS

These are a non-exhaustive list intended to guide and assist in local thinking. Innovative interventions not covered which meet the principles are encouraged.

Overarching guiding principles:

Principle 1: Interventions made under this fund should be based on a clear economic recovery and/or low-income household support rationale.

Examples:

- LAs may consult with local business stakeholders to determine best interventions in their respective context
- LAs may have light-touch local sectoral analysis of funding to show link with economic need, which could build on similar examples such as the template for evaluation of the flexible funding element of the Winter Support Fund
- LAs may have targeted intervention at those known to have been impacted most by the pandemic and/or any EQIA

Principle 2: A collaborative approach towards sharing of best practice and learnings from different interventions should be adopted to maximise benefits and positive effects while minimising risk and unintended consequences

Examples:

- Presentation at COSLA-SLAED-SG Business Grant 'Project Group' and other relevant forums

Principles of spend (Local Authorities may wish to allocate funding based on one or more of the following):

Principle 3: Local Authorities may wish to allocate funding to interventions that support local economic recovery and enable businesses to move from surviving the period of trading restrictions towards recovery, growth, adaptation and building resilience

Examples:

- Business Improvement Districts
- Place Based Investment Programme
- Scotland Loves Local or local equivalent scheme
- Targeted direct financial support to local businesses
- Targeted joint work or support on a sectoral basis for sectors that are particularly important for the local economy
- Improving digital access for businesses and consumers
- Expanding or enhancing existing economic development activity
- Funding for continuing COVID compliance, adaptation and resilience officers

Principle 4: Local Authorities may wish to allocate funding to projects that can rebuild consumer confidence and stimulate demand and economic activity in their specific context

Examples:

- Providing pre-paid vouchers, Scotland Loves Local cards or local equivalents to low-income households, such as those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and other low-income households.
- Direct assistance to access food, fuel and other essentials – where this is more appropriate or is the preference of individuals themselves – with contracts supporting local businesses / organisations.

Principle 5: Local Authorities may wish to allocated funding to support the low-income households, that are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis, become more economically active

Examples:

- Proactive financial assistance to low-income households, for example households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and/or Free School Meals on the basis of low income. Providing pre-paid vouchers, Scotland Loves Local cards or local equivalents to low-income households, such as those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and other low-income households.
- Proactive financial assistance to support those likely to experience hardship – including people who may have been impacted by the cut to Universal Credit and those who may not be eligible for mainstream or other support.
- Proactive financial assistance to a particularly vulnerable group, e.g., older people in low-income households.