

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	8 July 2021
Title:	PPE Donation to Nepal
Report From:	Chief Executive

Contact name: Rob Carr, Head of Finance
Kate Steels, PPE Warehouse and Distribution Manager

Tel: 0370 779 2647
0370 779 4702

Email: Rob.carr@hants.gov.uk
kate.steels@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval for the donation of a proportion of our existing PPE stock to assist the Nepalese response to a current large wave of Coronavirus. A request for assistance from Hampshire County Council has been made by Rushmoor Borough Council on behalf of Nepali community Leaders living in Hampshire.

Recommendation(s)

2. It is recommended that a donation of PPE is given for mutual aid to Nepal as detailed in Appendix 2.

Executive Summary

3. Rushmoor Borough Council are co-ordinating and managing a mutual aid initiative to send much needed PPE to the Gorkha municipality of Nepal which is suffering a very large wave of Coronavirus. There is a strong connection between Rushmoor residents and this area of Nepal. Community Leaders inform us that PPE is not reaching some areas in most need. The Leader of Hampshire County Council has formally been approached by the Leader of Rushmoor Borough Council, Cllr David Clifford, requesting support. The Leader of the County Council has indicated a desire to support the initiative by donating surplus PPE already purchased and held by the County Council.

Contextual information

4. Rushmoor Borough Council, one of 11 Districts and Boroughs within Hampshire County Council, has the largest concentration of Nepalis in the UK and second highest Nepali population after London. This is predominantly due to the strong Military / Gurkha regiments based in Aldershot.
5. Rushmoor Borough Council has a sister city relationship with the Gorkha Municipality in Nepal, which is part of the wider Gorkha district, which has a population of approximately 40,000. There are strong links between Nepali residents living in North-East Hampshire and Gorkha. The Municipality has been hit hard by the pandemic and is in lockdown at present. The health system is running at capacity.
6. Community leaders have approached the District Council for support in getting additional PPE to the Gorkha region where it is desperately needed in local areas. Rushmoor Borough Council has agreed to assist and is leading the mutual aid initiative in collaboration with Community Leaders and the Nepali Embassy. Cllr David Clifford, Leader of Rushmoor Borough Council has, in turn, asked the Leader of Hampshire County Council for assistance and support.
7. Nepal is ranked 43rd poorest country in the world (Source: Global Finance 2021) and, based on the multidimensional Poverty Index 2018, has just under 30% of its population, circa 10 million people, being multidimensionally poor.
8. Hampshire County Council area has a population of circa 1.4million with 95,000 living in Rushmoor area (2018 statistics). Therefore approximately 7% of Hampshire's population live in Rushmoor.
9. It is recognised that the Nepali population is a significant ethnic minority group but by no means the only ethnic minority group living in Hampshire. It is also acknowledged that there is potential that other District and Borough Councils submit similar requests for mutual aid to other countries, so the Council's response needs to be evidenced, proportionate and fair.

PPE Warehouse and Stock Levels

10. The County Council established a large PPE warehouse and distribution centre at the start of the pandemic to support the health and social care sectors as there was a national shortage of PPE and supply chains had broken.
11. The warehouse retains an agreed Strategic reserve of PPE on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). It also contains a large amount of PPE which

has been issued by the Government plus PPE which the County Council purchased.

12. Demand for PPE from the warehouse has reduced significantly and there are good supplies available free of charge (up until March 2022), from the government to support our health and social care sectors manage and protect against Coronavirus.
13. This report focuses solely on PPE which has been purchased by the County Council using general Covid grant from the Government and excludes the strategic reserve.
14. There has been differing levels of demand for various items of PPE. This pattern, combined with the government supply has resulted in an accumulation of large volumes of some items of PPE. Furthermore, the shelf life of PPE is limited and some of our stock level has expiry dates of Spring 2022.
15. Appendix 1 shows a summary of purchased PPE items where we have large volumes of stock. It also shows an approximate breakdown of this stock by expiry date.
16. Appendix 2 shows the maximum proposed levels of PPE which could be donated to Rushmoor Borough Council specifically as mutual aid for Nepal. The total current market value of this volume of PPE is £53,800 although it is not yet known if there is capacity to transport this volume of PPE. The actual value of a donation could therefore be a lesser amount.
17. Any donations of stock would be on the basis that there is no cost or additional activity on behalf of the County Council.

Financial Implications

18. At the beginning of the pandemic PPE supplies were difficult to acquire and the County Council was assisting the Local Resilience Forum in ensuring that there was a strategic reserve of PPE available to support all of the public sector services and other critical providers such as private nursing and care homes.
19. Large quantities of PPE were acquired from around the globe given that the Government's distribution arrangements were not fully operational and there were significant concerns that PPE could run out in health and care settings in particular.

20. Over time, the Government's distribution arrangements (and PPE supply chains generally) settled down and within the warehouse the 'free' supplies of PPE were issued first to avoid the need for charging organisations for stock which had been purchased by HCC on behalf of the LRF (which had been agreed at the Strategic Command Group).
21. We are now at the point that some of the purchased stock is nearing its expiry date, but with regular supplies from the Government there is no requirement for it to be issued and is therefore technically surplus to requirements and needs using up before the expiry date.
22. The purchased stock was funded at the year end by using general Covid grant received from the Government and should the decision be taken to provide surplus stock to Nepal or any other communities there are no further financial implications for the County Council as the assumption is that transportation and other costs will be paid by the sponsoring organisations.

Equalities & Climate Change

23. This report is focused on giving a donation to a foreign county (Nepal) at request of the Nepali community living in Rushmoor Borough Council.
24. There will be a detrimental impact on climate change in transporting the PPE to Nepal. However, without PPE there will be serious risk of increased death rates from Coronavirus.

Conclusions

25. On balance it would be proportionate, fair, and ethical to support the mutual aid request to donate PPE to Nepal. The PPE is surplus to current demand within Hampshire and its expiry date is sufficient for use in Nepal at the current time. Levels of demand from the warehouse are such, that there is a strong probability that this PPE would not be used prior to expiry date.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because it is recommended a donation of goods are given for foreign mutual aid to assist with the response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

Appendix 1: Table showing simplified summary of purchased PPE items with large volumes remaining

Item	Current indicative retail cost - Per item	Unit / pack size	Cost per pack	Number of Units	Approx. amount with no expiry date shown	Approx. amount with Expiry Date 2022 (Mostly Spring 2022)	Approx. amount with Expiry Date in 2023	Approx. amount with Expiry Date in 2024	Approx. amount with Expiry Date of 2025 and beyond	Level of Govt stock
Type IIR Face Masks - basic masks	£ 0.15	50	£ 7.50	13871		12000		1871		Low but available to order - free
FFP2 Masks	£ 1.00	3	£ 3.00	2031			2031			Good
Gloves - Small	£ 0.11	100	£ 11.00	1230		1230				Good
Gloves - Medium	£ 0.11	100	£ 11.00	528		8	80		440	Good
Gloves - large	£ 0.11	100	£ 11.00	16360			120	660	15580	Good
Goggles	£ 1.15	1	£ 1.15	71339		71339				Very high- and available to order free
Face Shields	£ 0.07	100	£ 7.00	387	387					5000+ individual shields
Glasses - reusable	£ 0.73	12	£ 8.76	159				159		None
Shoe covers	£ 0.02	100	£ 2.00	9771	9771					Nil
Gowns - medium	£ 2.50	1	£ 2.50	2150	1400		720			Very High - and other sizes
Coveralls (look like forensic suits) - large	£ 12.00	1	£ 12.00	32081			32081			OK and other sizes
Hand sanitiser	£ 15.00	5L	£ 15.00	1472		1472				Good in 500ml size and available to order - free

**Appendix 2: Proposed maximum levels of PPE donations to offer
Rushmoor Borough Council to provide mutual aid to Nepal**

Item	Current indicative retail cost - Per item	Unit / pack size	Cost per pack	Number of Packs	Number of Items	Current Marketplace Value (£)
Type IIR Face Masks - basic masks	£ 0.15	50	£ 7.50	1,200	60,000	9,000
FFP2 Masks	£ 1.00	3	£ 3.00	200	600	6,00
Gloves - Small	£ 0.11	100	£ 11.00	200	20,000	2,200
Gloves - Medium	£ 0.11	100	£ 11.00	200	20,000	2,200
Gloves - large	£ 0.11	100	£ 11.00	300	30,000	3,300
Goggles	£ 1.15	1	£ 1.15	5,000	5,000	5,750
Shoe covers	£ 0.02	100	£ 2.00	1,000	100,000	2,000
Gowns - medium	£ 2.50	1	£ 2.50	700	700	1,750
Coveralls (look like forensic suits) - large	£ 12.00	1	£ 12.00	1,000	1,000	12,000
Hand sanitiser	£ 15.00	5L	£ 15.00	1,000	5,000L	15,000

**Total Value
£53, 800**