


**RECORD OF EXERCISE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY OFFICER PURSUANT TO
REGULATION 13 OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS)
(MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 &
THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014**

<u>SUBJECT OF DECISION</u> COVID-19 Additional Restrictions Grant Policy	
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u> DO32/2020(SH)	<u>SOURCE OF AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE</u> (i.e. Committee/ Constitution/Minute No. etc. Constitution 3E.4 (g) (urgency)
<u>DATE OF DECISION</u> 20/11/2020	<u>DECISION MAKER (Name and Job Title)</u> Simone Hines 

RECORD OF THE DECISION

a) The issue

The Government has recently issued guidance to local authorities on the further COVID related support grants for businesses impacted by the latest national restrictions.

The Council has already launched its Local Restrictions Grant Policy, for those businesses mandated to close. This decision relates to the Additional Restrictions Grant Policy, which is a discretionary fund which can be used for direct grants to businesses and also wider support measures.

The Council has received funding of £2.598m to administer the scheme, and it can be spent until 31st March 2022.

The Policy is attached at Appendix A.

Key elements of the policy are:

- It is for businesses not eligible for the LRG scheme, including those without a Rateable Value
- Payment bands will mirror the LRG scheme (£1,333, £2,000 and £3,000 depending on size of the business)
- Applications from businesses in the supply chain of businesses mandated to close are encouraged
- There is an Exceptional Hardship Fund
- There will be an application process, closing on 30th November.
- The Recovery Fund element of the scheme and any wider business support measures will be launched after Christmas, once further information is known about any national or local restrictions and the impact on the local economy.

Special Urgency powers are set out in section 4.16.1 of the Constitution and provide for Executive Directors to take decisions under urgency if they cannot reasonably be deferred. Given that the grant is to support those businesses currently closed due to the national restrictions, there is not time for the policy to go to the next Cabinet meeting in December.

b) The Decision

- To approve the Local Restrictions Grant Policy and to launch the application process from 20th November.

b) The Decision

That the Additional Restrictions Policy be approved.

Given the timescales involved the decision is not for call-in.

<p><u>REASON FOR THE DECISION</u></p> <p>To ensure that the grant funding is paid as soon as possible to those businesses impacted by the national COVID restrictions</p>
<p><u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED IN MAKING THE DECISION</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>WARD RELEVANCE</u></p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The Council's funding allocation for the ARG is £2.598m. There will be no top-up if demand exceeds this amount.</p>
<p><u>CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN WITH MEMBERS/OFFICERS</u></p> <p>Leader and Portfolio Holder Chair of the Internal OSP</p>
<p><u>ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY MEMBER CONSULTED</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>IN RESPECT OF ANY DECLARED CONFLICT BY A CABINET MEMBER, ANY DISPENSATION GIVEN BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE</u> (Note if the decision is a non-executive decision, no dispensation can be given).</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The Council's funding allocation for the ARG grants is £2.598m</p>

<u>HEALTH EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS</u>
N/A
<u>SECTION 17 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS</u>
N/A
<u>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</u>
The Council may have grant funding clawed back if the policy is not consistently applied and conditions met.
<u>SME (SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES) & LOCAL ECONOMY IMPLICATIONS</u>
The grant will support businesses who have been mandated to close under the current national COVID-19 restrictions or those that are still able to open but have been severely impacted by COVID.
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS</u>
N/A
<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u>
N/A
<u>ANY OTHER COMMENTS</u>
None

PLEASE RETURN TO THE DIRECTOR – ARTS, LEISURE & DEMOCRACY AS SOON AS A DECISION IS MADE OR AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER