

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3208

**Rules 4 and 16 - Covid-19 Business Support Grants:
Discretionary Fund**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Richard Samuel, Cabinet Member for Resources
The Issue	<p>The government has now announced an additional discretionary fund aimed at providing support for some small and micro businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund.</p> <p>The Government has provided guidance that sets out criteria and information which needs to be considered to support Local Authorities in administering the discretionary fund.</p>
Decision Date	22nd May 2020
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Discretionary Fund scheme as set out in Appendix 1 is approved.• the proposed grant application and award process and timeline as set out in Appendix 2 is noted, and• the application of the grant fund is delegated to the Director of Economy & Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, the CX, the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to ensure the grant is distributed within the £2.143m government funding, with fair distribution across the eligible business groups.
Rationale for decision	<p>To provide additional support for some small and micro businesses previously outside the scope of the business grant funds scheme, the government has set up a discretionary fund to be administered by local authorities.</p> <p>The West of England unitary authorities (Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council) have developed a regional policy to provide some consistency in the additional support available to businesses across the wider region.</p> <p>The proposed policy is attached to this report as Appendix 1. The policy sets out how the fund will operate including, criteria for grants, eligible businesses and individual grant levels.</p> <p>This decision is to be made under part 4G Rule 4 and Part 4B Rule 16 of the council's constitution as an urgent decision. This matter is urgent because the council needs to implement the Discretionary Business Support grant scheme at pace to allow the grant application process to be opened by 27th May 2020, so that support to charities and businesses impacted by Covid19 can be provided as quickly as possible.</p>

Financial and budget implications	The Council's confirmed allocation of funding for the discretionary fund is £2.143m. In order to maintain costs of the scheme within the available funding, grants have been limited to a cap of £5,000 and if the number of eligible claims exceeds the funding available, the award of grants will be prioritised to ensure fair distribution across the business groups.
Issues considered	Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Corporate; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Policy Development & Scrutiny Chair; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	By email, telephone and skype meetings
Other options considered	Various grant levels were considered across the eligible businesses and charities, a cap on individual grants of £5,000 is proposed to enable the Council to support as many businesses as possible within the funding available.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	
Date of Signature	
This decision is NOT subject to Call-in	