

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E3247

**Rule 4 and Rule 16 - COVID-19 Business Support Grants:
Additional Restrictions Grant Policy**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Richard Samuel, Cabinet Member for Resources
The Issue	<p>The government has announced a further Covid 19 business support funding package to be administered by Local Authorities. The funding is available either at the point the area enters tier 3 local restrictions or on the imposition of national restrictions. National restrictions came into effect on 5th November 2020 triggering the need to implement the business support schemes in all Local Authority areas.</p> <p>Part of the business support package is to be provided through the “Additional Restrictions grant scheme” which is a discretionary fund available to support local economies and businesses that have been adversely impacted by the national restrictions that have been imposed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>The Government has provided guidance to support Local Authorities in administering the Additional Restrictions Grant. The decision is required to approve the Additional Restrictions Grant Policy for Bath & North East Somerset Council.</p>
Decision Date	13th November 2020
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees to,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme policy as set out in Appendix 1.• Delegate the application of the grant fund to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, the CX, and the Monitoring Officer to ensure the grant is distributed within the £3.866m government funding, with fair distribution across the eligible business groups.
Rationale for decision	<p>A package of business support grants has been announced by the government to support businesses impacted by the restrictions implemented to try and prevent the spread of Covid 19. There are two main grant schemes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Restrictions Support Grant Scheme – to support businesses required to close as a result of national restrictions being put in place. This is operated under national guidance to businesses who

	<p>are liable for Business Rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme – local authority run discretionary scheme to support businesses more broadly that are severely impacted by the new restrictions. <p>This decision relates to the policy for administering the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant scheme.</p> <p>The West of England unitary authorities (Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council) and the West of England Combined Authority 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 the decision report as Appendix 1. The policy sets out how the fund will operate including, criteria for grants, eligible businesses, exclusions from the scheme and individual grant levels.</p>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>The Council's confirmed allocation of funding for the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme is £3.866m.</p> <p>The government funding is available to be used across both the 2020/21 and the 2021/22 financial years. The government has stated that if a Local Authority exits national or local restrictions then no additional discretionary grant funding will be provided under the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme if it then re-enters national or local restrictions at a future date.</p> <p>In order to maintain costs of the scheme within the available funding, grants have been limited to up to £1,500. Where eligible claims exceed the funding available, the award of grants will be prioritised to ensure fair distribution across the business groups.</p> <p>Where exceptional circumstances exist, the Council reserves the right to vary the criteria of the scheme to be able to respond effectively to local economic need.</p>
<p>Issues considered</p>	<p>Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Corporate; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>By email</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>Various grant levels were considered across the eligible businesses, a limit on individual grants of up to £1,500 is proposed to enable the Council to support as many businesses as possible within the funding available.</p>
<p>Declaration of</p>	

interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	
Date of Signature	

This decision is NOT subject to Call-in