

Executive decision taken by Leader



Decision taken by:

Councillor David Tutt

Date of decision:

19 November 2020

Subject of report:

On 31st October the Government announced a further national lockdown effective from 5th November to 2nd December which requires certain businesses to legally close due to restrictions being put in place to manage coronavirus and save lives. The announcement included a grant funding package and schemes that will operate to support businesses within the business rates system.

The funding is aimed at those businesses in rateable premises that are mandated to close during any national lockdown period imposed by Central Government.

It is essential that the Council develop robust policies which will adequately deal with the impositions placed on certain businesses whilst at the same time working within budget and ensuring support to those that have to close.

Exempt matter (if any as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972):

No

Key decision?:

Yes

Open summary of decision made:

The Leader of the Council approves the Additional Restrictions Grants Scheme and grants the Director of Service Delivery delegated authority, to implement, and if necessary, amend each Policy (in consultation with the Leader). Such delegated authority will include any measures necessary for or incidental to its management and administration.

In accordance with section 20 of the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the call-in procedure shall not apply to this decision given its urgency. A decision is urgent if, in the view of the decision maker, any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would, for example, seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

In accordance with this section, it is the opinion of the decision maker that this decision is an urgent one and therefore exempt from call-in.

Reason(s) for decision:

This is a new scheme which needs to be implemented as a matter of urgency and so executive approval for the scheme is being sought from the Leader. The Leader is being asked to authorise the Director of Service Delivery to implement and administer the scheme as there is no existing officer delegation in place.

Alternative options considered:

This additional funding has been made available by Government as an emergency measure to support businesses mandated to close under national restrictions. Time does not permit alternative options.

Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken?

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Tony Freebody, has agreed, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, where compliance with paragraph 9 (the giving of at least 28 days notice) and 10 (the giving of five clear days notice) was impracticable, that a report containing a key decision relating to the Local Restrictions Support Grant Scheme will be considered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Tutt on 12 November 2020.

If councillor(s) consulted, did they declare any personal interest relating to the decision, had they been given a dispensation in respect of the matter?

None

Signed:

Councillor David Tutt, Leader of the Council