

Executive decision taken by Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder



Decision taken by:

Councillor James MacCleary

Date of decision:

31 March 2021

Subject of report:

On 3rd March the Government announced additional support to certain business sectors that have been legally required to close due to national restrictions being put in place to manage coronavirus and save lives.

The announcement included additional grant funding support that will operate to support non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses within the business rates system. This will be a 'one-off' grant payment made to eligible businesses.

It is essential that the Council develops a robust policy which will adequately deal with the impositions placed on certain businesses whilst at the same time working within budget and ensuring support to those most impacted by the pandemic.

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 has approved the Restart Grants scheme April 2021 and granted 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 17 of the Council's Policy and Performance Advisory Committee 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 will be made available by Government as an emergency measure to support businesses that continue to be impacted by local restrictions. Time does not permit alternative options.

Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken? If so, what was the result of this consultation?

Councillor Nicholson.

Does the proposal involve any unplanned expenditure? If so, please confirm that you have consulted with the Chief Finance officer and include the date of consultation

The cost of the schemes are being met by Central Government and any additional expenditure will be met through the New Burdens Funding and it is expected the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are expected to provide Council's to administer the schemes.

Signed:

Councillor James MacCleary, Leader of the Council

Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder