

Executive decision taken by Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder



Decision taken by:

Councillor Zoe Nicholson

Date of decision:

14 January 2022

Subject of report:

On 21st December 2021 the Government announced a new CV-19 business grant funding package to support businesses hospitality and leisure businesses impacted by the rise in the Omicron variant. The announcement included a scheme that will operate to support hospitality and leisure businesses within the business rates system.

The funding is aimed at those businesses in occupation in rateable premises as at 30th December 2021.

It is essential that the Council develops a robust policy to administer the scheme whilst at the same time working within budget and ensuring support to those that most need it.

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 Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant 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 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.

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 hospitality and leisure businesses over the next few weeks. 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?

None

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 scheme is being met by Central Government and any additional expenditure will be met through the New Burdens Funding.

Date of consultation: Not applicable

Signed:

Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council

Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder