

Decision by Portfolio Holder



Report reference: LDR-001-2017/18
Date of report: 26 November 2020

**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Leader

Author: Rob Pavey (01992 564211)

Democratic Services: J Leither

Subject: Additional Restrictions Grant Policy

Decision: (1) That the Additional Restrictions Grant policy be approved; and

(2) That the Chairman of Council be requested to waive the call-in requirements for this decision due to it being considered urgent and any delay caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the public interest.

ADVISORY NOTICE: <i>A Portfolio Holder may not take a decision on a matter on which he/she has declared a Pecuniary interest. A Portfolio Holder with a non-pecuniary interest must declare that interest when exercising delegated powers.</i>	
I have read and approve/ do not approve (delete as appropriate) the above decision:	
Comments/further action required:	
Signed: Councillor C Whitbread	Date: 27 th November 2020
<i>Non-pecuniary interest declared by Portfolio Holder/ conflict of non-pecuniary interest declared by any other consulted Cabinet Member:</i> <p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<i>Dispensation granted by Standards Committee:</i> Yes/No or n/a <p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>
Office use only: Call-in period begins: Waived	Expiry of Call-in period: Waived

**After completion, one copy of this pro forma should be returned to
Democratic Services IMMEDIATELY**

Reason for decision:

To enable Grant payments to be made to businesses that remain open during the Covid national lockdown but are severely affected by its impact. the urgency of the decision requires a Portfolio Holder decision to be used to enable payments to be made as soon as possible.

Initialed as original copy by Portfolio Holder:
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Options considered and rejected:

To take the policy through the full Committee procedural process delaying payments.

Background Report:

1 The Government has made available a range of grants for businesses during the Covid period. One of the grants relates to those businesses that can remain open during the latest Covid lockdown but are severely affected by its impact, as an example there will be businesses that supply the hospitality business and remain open yet their income has been severely affected. The grant is referred to as the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) and it is for each local authority to determine their own policy in relation to this in accordance with Government guidelines. The Government has allocated EFDC £2.6m to fund this scheme.

2 The policy for EFDC is attached and targets those businesses covered under Government guidelines and attempts to pick up businesses that have thus far not received any Government support. Revenues officers have been working with the Economic Development team to pull the policy together to maximise its impact.

3 The normal method for agreeing such a discretionary report would be a Cabinet report followed by a decision at Full Council. Due to the urgent need to get the grant payments out to struggling businesses it is recommended that a Portfolio Holder decision from the Leader accompanied with approval from the Chairman of the Council will facilitate the process in a timely manner.

Resource Implications:

£2.6m funding from Government

Legal and Governance Implications:

Call-in and urgency arrangements within article 6 of the Constitution.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None.

Consultation Undertaken:

No external consultation undertaken.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:**Risk Management:**

Risk 4, Economic Development, within the Corporate Risk Register.

Key Decision Reference (Y/N): N.

Equality Analysis:

The Equality Act 2010 requires that the Public Sector Equality Duty is actively applied in decision-making. This means that the equality information provided to accompany this report is essential reading for all members involved in the consideration of this report. The equality information is provided at Appendix 1 to the report.