

REPORT TO: Cabinet

2 September 2020

LEAD OFFICER: Liz Watts, Chief Executive

Actions taken under Chief Executive's delegated powers

Executive Summary

1. As required by the Council's Constitution, this report informs Cabinet of actions taken under the Chief Executive's delegated powers.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. To note the action taken under the Chief Executive delegation (delegation 4.4, Table 7, Part 3 of the Constitution). Details of this action is set out in appendix A.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Advise the Cabinet of the decisions taken under the Chief Executive's emergency delegated powers as required by Delegation No 4.4, Table 7, Part 3 of the Constitution.

Report Author:

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Date of Decision	Subject	Background
17 July 2020	To approve and update the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Funding for Small Businesses Policy in line with Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund – Guidance for Local Authorities and endorse previous operational decisions of the Chief Finance Officer to award grants in accordance with government guidance.	<p>On 1 May 2020, government announced the introduction of a Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF). On 13 May 2020 this was followed by the publication of ‘Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund – Guidance for Local Authorities’. This grant fund is aimed at supporting small businesses who have been impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, are struggling to survive, and who are not eligible for existing government support schemes such as the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund.</p> <p>Whilst the LADGF is a discretionary scheme for local authorities to deliver, many of the criteria have been set nationally, including the following four priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces. Examples could include units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators which do not have their own business rates assessment. • Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment. • Bed & Breakfasts which pay Council Tax instead of business rates; and • Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief. <p>In addition the Council agreed to award Grants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any business not included in the above, but who form part of the supply chain (Businesses whose principal business is the supply goods, services or capital equipment to business customers that

		<p>operate in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector) for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure industry, and who can demonstrate that they have lost around 75% of their annual income as a result of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent public houses (i.e. not part of larger groups/Public Enterprise backed corporates etc.), Those small pubs who were not supported or picked up as part of the first tranche of grant funding e.g. small, independent pubs whose owners may be paying themselves out of income dividend • Sports centres that provide sporting facilities wholly and mainly to the general public with a Rateable Value greater than £51K
23 July 2020	<p>To authorise Licensing Officers to determine applications and fees under Part 1 of the Business and Planning Act 2020 which enables the District Council to issue pavement licences to pubs and other businesses selling food or drink for consumption on or off the premises. A licence permits the business to use furniture placed on the highway to sell or serve food or drink and/or allow it to be used by people for consumption of food or drink supplied from, or in connection with the use of the premises.</p>	<p>The Business and Planning Act 2020 came into force on 23 July 2020 and is intended to make provision relating to the promotion of economic recovery and growth following the Covid-19 pandemic. It introduces a streamlined and cheaper route for businesses such as cafes, restaurants and bars to secure a licence to place furniture on the highway. This will support them to operate safely while social distancing measures remain in place. This will provide much needed income over the summer months and protect as many hospitality jobs as possible. Any licence is issued for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 12 months. All licences will expire by law on 30 September 2021. The Council must determine any application within 10 working days following a 5 working day consultation with the Highways Authority as a statutory consultee. Further consultees are the Police, Fire Service, Environmental Health, Local Parish Councils and the public. Failure to determine the licence within this timescale will deem the licence granted. There is no statutory appeals process and as such there is no right of appeal against the refusal or revocation of a licence although the Council can introduce such a process. It is not proposed to charge a fee for this licence.</p>

