

ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

Committee: Council

Date: 23 February 2021

Author: John Hill, Chief Executive

[V136]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To note the action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the action taken by the Chief Executive on grounds of urgency be noted.

3.0 **BACKGROUND**

(a) Additional Restrictions Grant Round 1

3.1 The Additional Restrictions Grant is a discretionary funding scheme for local authorities to support businesses in their local economies during periods of lockdown relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grant funding for businesses with a business rates account that are forced to closed.

3.2 The Council has been awarded £1,796,800. The payment is for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years. Once we exit national lockdown, the Council will not receive additional funding if we re-enter national or local restrictions. The eligibility criteria and priority groups are detailed in the scheme which is attached at Appendix 1 for your information.

3.3 The decision on the grounds of urgency enabled the Council to implement the scheme and benefit those eligible businesses as soon as possible. The East Cambridgeshire Additional Restrictions Grant will go live from Wednesday 18 November 2020 and the Council will be required to complete weekly returns to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

(b) Additional Restrictions Grant Round 2

3.4 The Additional Restrictions Grant is a discretionary funding scheme for local authorities to support businesses in their local economies during periods of lockdown relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grant funding schemes for businesses.

3.5 The Council has been awarded £1,796,800. The payment is for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years. To date, the Council awarded £166,000 of this funding to local businesses.

3.6 The eligibility criteria and priority groups for the Additional Restrictions Grant Round 2 are detailed in the scheme which is attached for your information at Appendix 2.

3.7 The decision on the grounds of urgency will enable the Council to implement the scheme and benefit those eligible businesses as soon as possible. The East Cambridgeshire Additional Restrictions Grant will go live from Wednesday 23 December 2020 and the Council will be required to complete weekly returns to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

(c) Tier 2 Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)

3.8 Following the introduction of the Tier system of COVID-19 restrictions, Government has introduced further grants for businesses. The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) is a discretionary funding scheme for local authorities to support those eligible businesses that are still open but severely impacted by the Tier 2 restrictions.

3.9 The Council has been awarded £188,251 for The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open). The eligibility criteria and priority groups for this grant are detailed in the scheme which is attached at Appendix 3 for your information.

3.10 The decision on the grounds of urgency will enable the Council to implement the scheme and benefit those eligible businesses as soon as possible. The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) will go live from Wednesday 23 December 2020 and the Council will be required to complete weekly returns to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

3.11 In accordance with Part 3(4) paragraph 4.1, of the Constitution, the Chief Executive consulted the Leader of Council prior to the delegated decisions. The Chairman of Council and the Leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Independent Groups were subsequently notified of the delegated action taken.

3.12 In accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the Constitution, the urgent actions are being reported to Council for information.

(d) Additional Restrictions Grant – Round 3

3.13 The Additional Restrictions Grant is a discretionary funding scheme for local authorities to support businesses in their local economies during periods of lockdown relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grant funding for businesses with a business rates account that are forced to closed.

3.14 The Council has been awarded £2,594,853. The payment is for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years. Once we exit national lockdown the Council will not receive additional funding if we re-enter national or local restrictions.

3.15 The eligibility criteria and priority groups are detailed in the proposed scheme which is attached at Appendix 4 for your information.

3.16 The decision on the grounds of urgency will enable the Council to implement the scheme and benefit those eligible businesses as soon as possible. The East Cambridgeshire Additional Restrictions Grant will go live from Tuesday 16th February 2021 and the Council will be required to complete weekly returns to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 There are no additional financial implications.

4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required for the purposes of this report.

5.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme - November 2020

Appendix 2 – Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme Round 2 - December 2020

Appendix 3 – ECDC Tier 2 Local Restrictions Support Grant (LSRG) Open –
December 2020

Appendix 4 - Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme Round 3 – February 2021

Background Documents

Location

Contact Officer

Urgent Action Memos dated: 16
November and 23 December
2020

Room 103
The Grange
Ely

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