

## Executive Emergency Provision

This decision is to be made by the Chief Executive pursuant to the following provisions in Part 3 Paragraph 9.3.2.:

“Exceptionally,..... notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the Chief Executive shall be authorised to exercise either executive or non-executive functions where the matter is urgent unless this is prohibited by law.”

The current situation in respect of the Coronavirus: COVID 19 is an exceptional circumstance. The decision proposed in this report is urgent in current circumstances because:

### **Local Authority Discretionary Grant Scheme – additional criteria expansion**

Approval is being sought to agree the expansion of the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Scheme criteria as outlined in paragraph 3.8 - 3.10 and Appendix 1 of the accompanying report.

The decision proposed in this report is urgent in current circumstances for the following reasons:

1. Following the government’s announcement that the majority of businesses will be permitted to reopen, the council anticipates that these businesses are likely to need upfront funding quickly to enable them to restart their businesses after a prolonged period of enforced closure during lockdown. Any delay in distributing the grant funding to a wider section of the business community may mean that some businesses are not able to access the support they need in a timely manner which could impact on the viability of the local economy.
2. On 23 July, the government set a deadline of 28 August for the scheme where any unspent funds will need to be returned. Therefore, it is important that the change in criteria is communicated as soon as possible to ensure grants are paid quickly and to as many eligible businesses as possible.

Approved by: Chief Executive

Signed: *Carolyn Downs*

Date: 27 July 2020

Date Leader or Deputy Leader, relevant Lead Member and Leader of the Opposition notified of decision made: 27 July 2020