

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.

Local Authority Discretionary Grant Scheme criteria expansion

Approval is being sought to agree the expansion of the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Scheme criteria as outlined in paragraph 3.12 and Appendix 2 of the accompanying report and to note that the deadline for the scheme is now extended indefinitely until the funds have been spent.

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 on 4th July 2020, 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. Waiting until after the next scheduled Cabinet meeting on 20th July to agree changes and distribute 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. The government’s wish is for local authorities to distribute the grant funding quickly and effectively to support economic recovery.

Approved by: Chief Executive

Signed: *Carolyn Downs*

Date: 1 July 2020

Date Leader or Deputy Leader, relevant Lead Member and Leader of the Opposition notified of decision made: 2 July 2020