

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Leader Decision

Decision By: Cllr Wilson, Leader

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT SCHEME

Key Decision: No

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The report is to approve the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme

2.0 Decision

2.1 Approve the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme.

3.0 Issue

- 3.1 On 31st October 2020, the Government announced the introduction of additional support for Local Authorities under national and Local Covid Alert Level 3 restrictions.
- 3.2 The support will take the form of a funding scheme in Financial Year 2020-2021 and can be used across Financial Years 20/21 and 21/22. The scheme is called the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) and is administered by business rate billing authorities in England. Funding received under this scheme is £2,524,400.
- 3.3 The Council can determine how much funding to provide to businesses from the ARG funding provided, and exactly which businesses to target. For the initial four-week period of national lockdown, the proposed fund would amount to £500,000, on a first come first served basis.
- 3.4 The scheme has been designed to help meet the gaps in the Local Restrictions Support Grants funding which are targeted at businesses that are registered for Business Rates and have been legally forced to close.
- 3.5 The three types of business that the scheme targets are as follows: -
- Those businesses legally forced to close, where they rent a commercial space but are not the ratepayer.
 - Those businesses legally forced to close, where they do not rent a commercial premise but work from home.
 - Those businesses that have not been legally forced to close but support / supply those businesses that have been legally forced to close.

3.6 The grant structure is broadly in line with the Local Restrictions Support Grants, so therefore compliments that existing scheme.

3.7 The full policy can be found in Appendix A.

4.0 Implications

Financial Implications

4.1 The processing of applications will be delivered by the Corporate Support Team. If there are any additional costs these will be paid through the general Covid-19 funding.

Legal

4.2 There are no legal considerations.

Data

4.3 The DPO has been consulted and is currently reviewing the Privacy Statements.

Risks

4.4 The number of successful applicants is unknown, hence ringfencing funds, will mitigate any potential overspend.

5.0 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 – ‘confidential’ or Exempt’ Information Indicator: (please complete as appropriate)

5.1 This delegated decision contains neither confidential nor exempt information

6.0 Is this an Urgent Decision?

Yes – a policy needs to be agreed, so that grants can be paid during and after the national lockdown.

17 Consultation with Local Member/Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Lead (as appropriate):

Ward Member Informed: N/A

Portfolio Holder Informed: Cllr Mark Inkster - Yes

Chairman of the Governance, Audit & Finance Board: Cllr Briggs – 26.11.20

Agreed Cllr Michael Wilson, Leader

Date 26.11.20.

(The decision is subject to the usual ‘call-in’ process and, if not called in by the Scrutiny Board, will be effective five clear working days after the date of publication. If an urgent decision, this date will be the same as the date that this decision record was published)

Appendices: *Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme (ARG)*

Agreed and signed off by:

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Director: Lydia Morrison, Director of Corporate Services (s151)
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