
NON-EXEMPT

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

1 June 2022

Report from Task & Finish Panel to Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the Council's response to C19 - the disbursement of government funds to businesses as grants

Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

FOR INFORMATION

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cllr Lloyd (2021/22)

Key Decision: NO

Report No. HBC/053/2022

1. Purpose

1.1 At its meeting held on 12 April 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations of the Task & Finish Panel which reviewed the Council's response to C19 regarding the disbursement of government funds to businesses as grants.

2.0 Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.1 Cabinet be advised that:

- (a) Overview and Scrutiny notes the uniqueness and complexity of the situation with which the Council was faced;
- (b) Overview and Scrutiny notes that without the massive, personal effort made by the key officers in charge of working with Capita to disburse the funds to businesses, the Council would not have helped the Borough's businesses as it did; and
- (c) Overview and Scrutiny wishes to commend those officers who worked tirelessly to physically process those many cases which demanded further scrutiny at the time, under immense pressure, in order that Havant Borough Council incurred no penalty for any fraudulent activity being possible, within this unique process.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 12 April 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations of the Task & Finish Panel which reviewed the Council's response to C19 regarding the disbursement of government funds to businesses as grants. (Report attached as Appendix A).
- 3.2 In response to a question raised by a member of the Committee, the Head of Customer Services reassured the Committee that the processes were in place to enable the Council to respond quickly to similar situations in the future.
- 3.3 The Committee expressed their gratitude to the way the officers had responded to a such a complex and unique situation.

4.0 Additional Budgetary Implications

- 4.1 None arising from this report

5.0 Background and relationship to Corporate Strategy and/or Business Plans

- 5.1. The review of the disbursements of business grants highlights the key role that the Council can play in helping businesses within the local economy.

6.0. Resource Implications

- 6.1. Financial Implications

None arising from this report

Section 151 Officer comments: None Received

Dated 30 May 2022

- 6.2 Human Resources Implications

None arising from this report

- 6.3 Information Governance Implications

None arising from this report

- 6.4 Links to Shaping our Future Programme

Not Applicable

- 6.5 Other resource implications

None arising from this report

- 6.6 Legal Implications

None arising from this report

Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments

Dated 27 May 2022

The local authority response to the Covid pandemic, and in particular the effectiveness of grant distribution, is of significant public interest. The full report of the Task and Finish Panel, and the resulting recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, are before Cabinet for consideration.

7.0 Risks

7.1 None Arising from this report

8.0 Consultation

8.1 Not Applicable

9.0 Communication

9.1 Not Applicable

Appendices

Appendix A - Report of the Task and Finish Task Panel

Background papers

Report of the Task and Finish Task Panel

Contact

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