

## Officer Executive Decisions

### **COVID-19 DECISION: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY GRANTS FUND**

#### Delegation from Leader and date

On 22 May 2020, the Leader considered an [urgent report](#) which provided details of a proposal to administer the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund which the government had introduced in response to Covid-19, to which the Leader's approval under urgency provisions was sought.

The report explained that in March and April 2020, the government announced and issued guidance on a number of business support schemes. On 2 May 2020, the government announced the establishment of a discretionary 'top-up' fund to accommodate certain small businesses outside the scope of the previously-announced business grant fund schemes. Full guidance was issued on 13 May 2020, and officers had developed a proposed scheme, set out at paragraphs 2.6 to 2.18 and Appendix 1 to the report.

The Leader, using urgency powers, agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Physical and Cultural Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, to consider and determine applications made under the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Scheme, as set out in section 2 of the report (decision no. 58/2020 refers).

#### Decision

The Urgency Report set out scheme proposals for administering the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund, including the application process, and eligibility, weighting and compliance criteria. At the request of the Leader, the Assistant Director Physical and Cultural Regeneration was asked to work in consultation with an informal member panel, which included the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation.

The Assistant Director then made the grants summarised in Appendix 1 on the following basis:

- Separating overall funding in to two rounds reflecting updated government guidance allowing business owners who had received a Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant (SEISS) to be eligible for a discretionary grant.
- Weighted bracket increments for grant awards.
- Administration criteria for the 5% retained funds, as set out in the Urgency Report.

These decisions resulted in funding being awarded according to:

- Whether the applicant was in a government-set priority category (as indicated in the Urgency Report)
- Had received, or was eligible to receive a SEISS grant
- The level of income loss due to Covid-19 (20– 40%; 41-60%; 61-80%, 81%+)
- The level of fixed ongoing property costs (divided into four quartiles).

## Reasons for Decision

Decisions were made so as to expedite grant award payment to priority businesses within Medway to assist their recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Date of Decision

The process ran from 22 May to 28 August.

By the time of scheme closure on 28 August, £1,848,250 (the full Local Authority Discretionary Grant budget) had been awarded to 319 businesses.

## Lead Officer

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## Details of any other options considered and rejected

None

## Conflicts of Interest

None

## Appendix 1: Summary of Grant Award Levels and Number of Recipients:

Grant Award Value	Number of Recipients
£2,503.11	2
£2,668.61	3
£2,816.00	2
£3,049.84	3
£3,128.89	3
£3,218.28	1
£3,360.46	2
£3,431.07	4
£3,485.54	1
£3,575.87	6
£3,812.31	11
£3,840.52	8
£3,921.23	4
£3,998.82	6
£4,022.85	2
£4,320.59	6
£4,356.92	12
£4,389.17	6
£4,411.38	5
£4,469.84	3
£4,570.08	13
£4,800.66	16
£4,901.54	4
£4,937.82	13
£5,141.34	7

£5,222.94	7
£5,446.15	7
£5,486.46	8
£5,555.04	6
£5,712.60	35
£5,875.81	18
£6,172.27	11
£6,528.68	26
£6,858.08	8
£9,493.62	8
£10,000.00	42