

## Officer Executive Decisions

### COVID-19 Decision: Local Restrictions Support Grant

#### Delegation from Leader and Cabinet and date

On 27 March 2020 the Leader considered an urgent report which provided details of a number of Government measures in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates Relief, introduced in response to Covid-19, to which the Leader's approval under urgency provisions was sought. In agreeing that report, the Leader, using urgency powers, agreed "to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business Management, to implement any further measures introduced by the Government to provide relief for Council Tax and Business Rate payers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic insofar as these measures are 100% funded by Government, including the measures referred to in paragraph 2.10 of that report." (decision no. 45/2020 refers).

[The report may be viewed online.](#)

#### Decision

On 9 September 2020 the Government announced the Local Restrictions Support Grant to support businesses that were required to close during localised restrictions. On Friday 9 October the Government announced changes to the mandatory grants within this scheme to provide further support. On 31 October the Government confirmed this scheme (the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)) would be the mechanism through which support would be provided to businesses forced to close as a result of the national restrictions announced.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) is clearly set out by the Government as a mandatory scheme that applies for the period of national restrictions from 5 November to 2 December 2020. Businesses that are eligible are those that have been forced to close including non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses. The scheme will deliver a single grant to cover the four week period for each eligible business, on the following basis:

- a rateable value of £15,000 or under will qualify for a grant of £1,334 per 28-day qualifying restriction period
- a rateable value of more than £15,000 and less than £51,000 will qualify for a grant of £2,000 per 28-day qualifying restriction period
- a rateable value of more than £51,000 will qualify for a grant of £3,000 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.

The Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business Management, has agreed to implement the mandatory Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) scheme, with businesses identified as likely to be eligible being written to and invited to apply online via the Council's website during the week commencing 23 November 2020.

#### Reasons for Decision

The decision has been made to implement the mandatory scheme under delegation to expedite the payment of grants to businesses who are forced to close due to the national restrictions in place from 5 November to 2 December 2020.

## Date of Decision

23 November 2020

## Lead Officer

Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer (in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business Management), 01634 332220, [phil.watts@medway.gov.uk](mailto:phil.watts@medway.gov.uk)

## Details of any other options considered and rejected

None

## Conflicts of Interest

None