

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO AND DECISION OF THE ECONOMY COMMITTEE ON 19 JANUARY 2022

**SUBJECT: Covid Additional Restrictions Business Grant Funding**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Miriam Nicholls, Business Development Manager

**DATE:** January 2022

**EXTN:** 01903 737845

**SERVICE AREA:** Economy

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The report is asking Committee to support delivery of a new Discretionary Business Grant Scheme for Arun businesses based on the agreed West Sussex Councils' Guidelines and that authority be granted to the Director of Place to agree future Covid related business support grant schemes.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) agrees to the delivery of the latest Additional Restrictions Discretionary Grant scheme for businesses as set out in the West Sussex Councils' guidelines, attached as Appendix A; and
- (2) grants authority to the Director of Place to agree any future Covid related business support grant schemes.

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

1.1 Shortly after the first Lockdown in March 2020, Government provided funding for Discretionary Grants for businesses. This funding has continued with sums being allocated at various points during 2020, 2021 and now 2022.

1.2 Arun's funding has been distributed to businesses in line with the West Sussex Additional Restrictions Discretionary Grant scheme which has been adopted by all West Sussex Districts and Boroughs and has previously been agreed by this Council.

1.3 The Council is due to receive a third top up funding allocation of £236,347.

## 2. PROPOSALS

2.1 It is proposed that Arun deliver their grant funding in line with the scheme agreed by other West Sussex Councils. The scheme is attached as Appendix A and has been updated to reflect the additional funding allocated by Government. The funding available to each business has been scaled down, again, to reflect the latest funding allocation which is much lower than those previously received.

2.2 Also proposed is that authority be delegated to the Director of Place to agree any future Covid related business support grant schemes. There is always some degree of urgency to distribute funding to businesses, and this will allow a scheme to be agreed and funds distributed to businesses in the shortest timeframe.

## 3. OPTIONS:

3.1 To agree to deliver grants based on the West Sussex scheme – as previously.

3.2 To not deliver grants based on the West Sussex scheme and write a different scheme.

3.3 To give delegated authority to the Director of Place to agree any future Covid related business support grant scheme.

3.4 Not to agree delegated authority to the Director of Place to agree any future Covid related business support grant schemes. This will have the effect of delaying payments to businesses.

## 4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council (for previous decisions)		<b>x</b>
Relevant District Ward Councillors (for previous decisions)		<b>x</b>
Other groups/persons (please specify)		

5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		<b>x</b>
Legal		<b>x</b>
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		<b>x</b>
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		<b>x</b>
Sustainability		<b>x</b>
Asset Management/Property/Land		<b>x</b>
Technology		<b>x</b>
Other (please explain) Officer resources		<b>x</b>

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no implications for this Council as the project is funded by BEIS and grants will only be issued to the extent of the funding allocated to this Council.

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To allow allocated funds to be used to support Arun's business community.

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None