

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF THE HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE ON 24 JANUARY 2022

REPORT

SUBJECT: Covid - 19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF)

REPORT AUTHOR: Andrew Dale, Revenues and Benefits Manager

DATE: 13 January 2022

EXTN: 01903 737630

AREA: Residential Services

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. Also, that authority be given to the Director of Services to agree future Covid related business support grant schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that

- i. The Housing and Wellbeing Committee agrees to the delivery of the latest COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund for businesses as set out in the West Sussex Councils' guidelines, attached as Appendix A.
- ii. That authority be given to the Director of Services to agree any future Covid related business support grant schemes.

1. BACKGROUND:

1.1 On 25 March the Government announced a new COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) of £1.5 billion. The fund will be available to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates

1.2 Previously Arun's discretionary grant 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. The intention is for the Districts and Boroughs to follow the same principle to administer the Covid -19 Additional Relief Fund

1.3 The Council is due to receive a funding allocation of £1.954m.

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. The funding available to each business will be allocated when the number of applications is known at the close of the application window.

2.2 Also proposed is that authority be delegated to the Director of Services 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 Services to agree any future Covid related business support grant scheme.

3.4 Not to agree delegated authority to the Director of Services 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)		x
Relevant District Ward Councillors (for previous decisions)		x
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		x
Legal		x
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		x
Sustainability		x
Asset Management/Property/Land		x
Technology		x
Other (please explain) Officer resources		x

6. IMPLICATIONS:

There are no implications for this Council as the project is funded by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 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:

[West Sussex Councils' Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund \(CARF\) Guidelines](#)