


**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**DECISION TAKEN UNDER OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

*To be completed for decisions taken in accordance with Part 4, Officer Scheme of Delegation, Section 1, paragraph 5.2.*

<b>DATE DECISION TAKEN</b>	<b>7 April 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Distribution of the £39 million Business Support Grant as a result of Covid 19.</b>
<b>DECISION TAKEN</b>	<p>The Council has received £39 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for Business Support Funding as a result of COVID-19. This is for distribution to Businesses eligible for Small Business Grants and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants, which is circa 3,600 businesses.</p> <p>These funds are being made available under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003</p> <p>In order to avoid any further hardship to Businesses and minimise disruption to the Council's cash flow these grants, I have authorised that these grants be paid as soon as a Business has been verified and meets the audit checks for payment. My decision has recognised that it is not feasible to await the sign off by the Cabinet Member for each individual case in view of the number of claims being presented. The Cabinet Member has supported my decision.</p>
<b>REASON FOR THE DECISION</b>	<p>Section 138(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 confirms that: "Where an emergency or disaster involving destruction or danger to life or property occurs or is imminent or there is reasonable ground for apprehending such an emergency or disaster, and a principle council are of the opinion that it is likely to affect the whole or part of their area or all or some of its inhabitants, the council may .... (a) incur such expenditure as they consider necessary in taking action themselves (either alone or jointly with any other person or body and either in their area or elsewhere in or outside the UK) which is calculated to avert, alleviate or eradicate in their area or among its inhabitants the effects or potential effects of the event; ...."</p> <p>I have exercised my delegated authority at Part 4, Section 2, paragraph 3.9 of the Officer Scheme of Delegation which confirms that I can incur this expenditure for meeting the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972, S.138 when it is in connection with peacetime emergencies and disasters. This is to ensure that these grants can be paid as soon as possible to support this business sector in the community</p> <p>The s151 Officer has been consulted and supports the action taken.</p>

***This record to be maintained for six years or such period as statute requires with the relevant subject file***

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	As my authority confirms, this action will be reported to the first subsequent meeting of Cabinet.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED OR REJECTED</b>	To delay payment and await the Cabinet Member's formal sign off which would have impacted on the timescale for issuing this grant aid.
<b>ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL</b> <i>Only needed if the decision is under an express authorisation</i>	None
<b>NAME OF THE DECISION TAKER</b>	Philippa Dart, Director of Services
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>I support this emergency action</b>	Councillor Pauline Gregory, Cabinet Member for Residential Services
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	

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