

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

**SUBJECT: Discretionary Business Grants Policy**

**BRIEF STATEMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER:**

The government announced a Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund on 1st May 2020 and published guidance for local authorities on 13th May 2020. This guidance is attached at Appendix B. There has been a slight subsequent revision to this guidance and the proposed policy takes into account the most recent guidance.

This further scheme provides financial support to businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and is in addition to the two existing schemes administered by local authorities: the Small Business Grants Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund.

Local authorities have been provided with discretion as to which businesses to support under their scheme, however, government has stated their expectation that businesses in shared offices, small bed and breakfasts, charities in occupation on one small property, and market traders with fixed property costs are prioritised for grant.

Grants provided under the discretionary scheme may be of £25,000, £10,000 or any amount below £10,000. Authorities are required to develop clear criteria for determination of a grant and to publish details on their website.

It is anticipated that businesses will be required to make an application for support under the discretionary scheme and that payments will be made from early July 2020.

**DECISION:**

**RESOLVED that**

- a) the guidance for awards of discretionary grants, as attached to this urgent decision notice, is adopted; and**
- b) the Executive Director for Finance and Resources is authorised to finalise the guidance and to make other decisions in relation to the payment of grants, following consultation with the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management**

**(Council)**

**GROUNDINGS FOR URGENCY:**

The Executive Committee considered and endorsed a report in respect of this matter at a meeting held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020. However, there is not due to be a Council meeting where ordinary business will be considered until July 2020. In this context, to ensure that the Council can start to provide financial support to eligible businesses impacted by the lockdown as soon as possible, an urgent decision is requested in respect of this matter.

**DECISION APPROVED BY:**

*(Deputy)* **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCE & RESOURCES**  
*(if financial implications)*

.....  
**(Signature) (Sue Hanley / Kevin Dicks - (D)CX)**

.....  
**(Signature) (Jayne Pickering)**

**Date: June 2020**

<b>PROPOSED ACTION SUPPORTED</b> <i>(amend as appropriate)</i>				
..... <b>(Signature)</b>	..... <b>(Signature)</b>	..... <b>(Signature)</b>	..... <b>(Signature)</b>	..... <b>(Signature)</b>
<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>
<b>MAYOR *</b>	<b>PF HOLDER</b>	<b>LEADER of the LABOUR Group</b>	<b>LEADER / LDR CONSERVATIVE Group</b>	<b>CHAIR O&amp;S Committee</b>
Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:

Notes:

\* In addition to the Executive decision above regarding the matter under consideration, the Mayor is signing to agree both that the Executive decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. This is to ensure that the call-in procedures as set out in Part 8 of the Constitution shall not apply where an Executive decision being taken is urgent.

