

## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

**Subject:** Discretionary Business Rates Grant Scheme

**Brief Statement of Subject Matter:**

The government announced a Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund on 1 May 2020 and published guidance for local authorities on 13 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 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 June 2020.

**Decision:** Council

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**RESOLVED:**

- a) The guidance for awards of discretionary grants detailed in Appendix A to the report presented to Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, subject to the amendments contained in the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Board, be adopted; and
- b) The Executive Director for Finance and Resources be authorised to finalise the guidance and to make other decisions in relation to the payment of grants, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling.

**Grounds for Urgency:**

This matter was agreed at Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, with recommendation on to Council for the final decision. However, as the next scheduled meeting of Council is not due to be held until 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 then an urgent decision is required in order for the scheme to be implemented as soon as possible, in line with Government requirements.

**DECISION APPROVED BY:**

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Chief Executive – K Dicks

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Dated

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Section 151 Officer - J Pickering

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Dated

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Monitoring Officer – C Felton

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Dated

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Leader – Cllr K May

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Dated

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Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny Board  
Cllr M Thompson

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Dated

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Chairman – Cllr R Laight

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Dated