

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by the officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

Delegated Power

Cabinet: 1 August 2017
Minute CAB41(4):

Delegated authority is given to the council's s151 officer, in consultation with the Leader of the council, to agree any non-domestic rate relief schemes where the eligibility criteria are specified by central government, and the cost is met in full by central government through a grant.

Decision Taken

To implement the Discretionary Grant Scheme Policy for businesses as detailed in Government Guidance of 13 May 2020 and 22 May 2020, and Frequently Asked Questions of 27 May 2020.

Reasons for the Decision

On 1 May 2020 the government announced it was allowing local authorities to develop policies to pay discretionary grants to local businesses and traders affected by Covid-19. These grants are to be paid from the limited amount of funding made available by central government.

Initial guidance was issued by central government on 13 May 2020, Version 2 was published on 22 May 2020 and a set of Frequently Asked Questions was published on 27 May 2020. Whilst local authorities are able to decide their own policies, government has asked that certain businesses are prioritised for the grant.

The council has been allocated **£1,931,750** for discretionary grants. We can pay a grant of £25,000, £10,000 or any amount up to £10,000. Government expects that grants of less than £10,000 will be appropriate in most cases, but this is at our discretion.

As funding is limited this policy is restricted to those businesses the government has specified are a priority in its guidance, plus certain local priorities. Should there be any remaining funding a policy update will be considered.

Full details of eligible businesses and the eligibility criteria are included in the attached policy.

Options considered

The council can choose to support any businesses it deems as a local priority, within the limited amount of funding available. Demand for the grants is unknown as we do not know how many of some types of business may claim. For this reason this policy is restricted to the businesses the government has specified as priority areas, plus local priorities identified from the Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant applications and queries.

Further policy options will be considered should funding still be available after these businesses and traders have been paid.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

None known

Authorisation



Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Consultation with the Council Leader, Councillor Brian Long

Signed by Member as consulted:

Councillor Brian Long

Date

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function	Discretionary Grant Scheme Policy May 2020				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?	New				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	The Discretionary Grant scheme will award a grant of £25,000, £10,000 or less than £10,000 to certain eligible businesses and traders in the council's area				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			√	
	Disability			√	
	Gender			√	
	Gender Re-assignment			√	
	Marriage/civil partnership			√	
	Pregnancy & maternity			√	
	Race			√	
	Religion or belief			√	
	Sexual orientation			√	
Other (eg low income)			√		
Question	Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	No				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No				
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	N/A	Actions:			
		Actions agreed by EWG member:TBC.....			
Assessment completed by: Name Joanne Stanton					
Job title Revenues and Benefits Manager	Date 30 May 2020				