

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION

(Decision either included or not included on the current Forward Plan but needs to be implemented immediately by virtue of the urgency of the actions that need to be undertaken. This decision will not be subject to call-in.)

ORIGINATOR'S DETAILS

Name & Contact details:

Matthew Little, Principal Strategy Officer

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DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Implementation of the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme

The proposal to implement the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme in response to the COVID-19 pandemic arose following a government announcement on 31 October 2020 that further business support funding would be made available to Local Authorities under national and Local Covid 'High Alert' Level 3 restrictions.

The ARG provides additional support to grant funding provided under the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LSRG) schemes. In line with the guidance, the ARG is to be targeted at those businesses which are legally forced to close, but are outside the business rates system, or are severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19. For this reason, the ARG scheme needs to be rolled out immediately in order to have the most impact.

The pandemic continues to have a severe effect on local business and requires swift action to support those that are financially at risk. Deferring this decision will mean the ARG scheme will have little mitigating effect, and the opportunity to support our local economy during the period of national lockdown will have been missed. The decision needs to be taken with some urgency to support businesses that are under immediate financial strain, and may have to cease trading indefinitely if they do not receive financial support.

Delaying this decision will reduce our ability to positively affect our local economy during this crisis. There are possible reputational risks too, as the council may be perceived to be slow to action, and hesitant to support business. Indeed, the council is required to submit weekly returns to government providing an update on how much money has been paid to businesses through the ARG and will be directly compared to other local authorities.

Date decision to be taken on: 23 November 2020

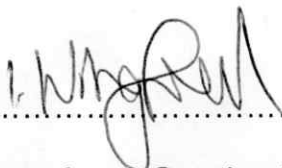
Urgent implementation notice cleared by:	
Chief Officer / Director	Stephen Gaskell, Director of Response and Renewal
Date	19 November 2020

Declaration

I ~~agree/disagree~~* with the Chief Officer/Head of Service that the proposed Decision is reasonable and that it can be treated as a matter of urgency.

Reason for refusal

Signed.....



Dated.....

20.11.20

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee/Mayor/Deputy Mayor*

* delete as appropriate

Please note reasons for refusal, additional points or further action required (as appropriate)

Please return completed form to Chidilim Agada, Proper Constitutional Officer, 2nd Floor, Hub 2, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH – tel: 020 7525 3310.
Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk