

## 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:**

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### DETAILS OF THE REPORT

**Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum policy**

On 31 October 2020 the Government announced new national lockdown restrictions in England, coming into force on 5 November 2020 and to be in place for a 28 day period until the 2 December 2020. All non-essential retail, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses have been ordered to close to manage the spread of coronavirus. The Local Restrictions Support (LRSG) (Closed) Addendum scheme provides grant payments to these closed businesses to financially support them while they are legally required to close their business.

The decision cannot be reasonably deferred due to the 28 day period national restrictions are being imposed, with grant payments expected to be paid within this period. This scheme was introduced to financially support businesses who were mandated to close at short notice.

The Government announced on 31 October 2020 new national restrictions to come into force on 5 November 2020. Only after this were local authorities subsequently mandated to administer LRSG (Closed) Addendum schemes for the 28 day period national lockdown restrictions are currently set to run.

Local authorities are expected to issue grant payments as soon as practically possible and we are already in a position where payments are being made and applications received.

Deferring this decision would undermine the effectiveness of the support grant scheme, a prescribed scheme by Government to support businesses that have been mandated to close. Non-payment of grants may risk businesses struggling financially or potentially disregarding the instruction to close.

Delaying the decision will mean the council risks reputational damage for

failing to properly back national business support schemes or for failing to provide timely financial support to businesses who are required to close due to the national lockdown restrictions.

**Date decision to be taken on: 25 November 2020**

Urgent implementation notice cleared by:	
Chief Officer / Director	Dominic Cain, Director Exchequer Services
Date	23 November 2020

**Declaration**

I agree 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.....*I. W. [Signature]*..... Dated.....*24.11.20*.....

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

\* delete as appropriate

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