

## 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

### **Additional Restrictions Grant scheme – Round Two**

The proposal to launch Round Two of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme is in direct response to Southwark entering into ‘very high’ local restrictions (Tier 3) on 16 December 2020.

Round One of the ARG scheme was launched on 24 November 2020 and we received 847 applications by the closing date of 15 December, underlying the high demand for support grants from local businesses.

In line with the guidance and Round One of the ARG scheme, Round two 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.

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 Round Two will have little mitigating effect, and the opportunity to support our local economy during the period of Tier 3 restrictions 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: 21 December 2020**

Urgent implementation notice cleared by:	
Chief Officer / Director	Stephen Gaskell, Director of Response and Renewal
Date	16 December 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.....*[Signature]*..... Dated.....*18.12.20*.....

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hub 2, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH – tel: 020 7525 3310.  
Email: [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk)