

## 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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020 7525 3519

### DETAILS OF THE REPORT

**Non-domestic Rates – Restart Grant scheme policy**

The Government has announced a new covid business rates grant scheme to support businesses as COVID-19 restrictions start to ease. The Restart Grant (RG) scheme is a one-off payment for non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses in England.

The decision cannot be reasonably deferred as restrictions have begun to ease as the Government's road map out of lockdown progresses, with grant payments expected to be paid from 1 April 2021. This scheme, as per previous covid restriction grant schemes, was introduced to financially support businesses who have experienced a significant impact on their businesses as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

On 3 March 2021 the Government announced the introduction of the RG scheme to support for non-essential non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses in England. Local authorities were subsequently mandated to administer the RG scheme from 1 April 2021 but full guidance was not provided until 15 April 2021.

Local authorities are expected to issue grant payments as soon as practically possible and we are already in a position where payments can be paid and applications are open.

Deferring this decision would undermine the effectiveness of the support given by the grant scheme, which is a prescribed scheme by Government to support businesses that have been severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. Non-payment of grants may risk businesses struggling financially or potentially disregarding ongoing restrictions.

Delaying the decision will mean the council risks reputational damage for

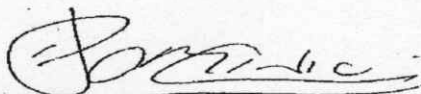
failing to properly back national business support schemes or for failing to provide timely financial support to businesses who have been financially impacted by national restrictions.

**Date decision to be taken by: 12 May 2021**

Urgent implementation notice cleared by:

Chief Officer / Director

Dominic Cain, Director Exchequer Services



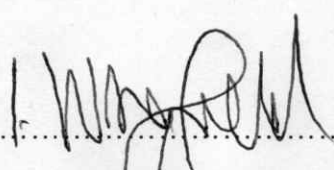
Date

10 May 2021

**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..... **12.5.21** .....

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>  
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Email: [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk)