

URGENCY PROCEDURE

Officer: Sean Kearney	Position: Head of Communities and Place	Date: 20/11/2020
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Subject of Urgency: Additional Restrictions Grant

Reason for Urgency:

On the 31st October the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy published guidance on the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), a scheme intended to support businesses and economies and to provide additional support to grant funding under the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

The ARG is a discretionary grant scheme so the Local Authority can decide (within the realms of the spirit of the guidance) to apply local discretion to it's application and delivery.

The funds available for use under the ARG total £1.43m and can be used across financial years 20/21 and 21/22.

Officers have prepared a Torridge District Council/ North Devon Council specific application and assessment process that will govern the delivery of a grant scheme and the redistribution of much needed support to the business community. Grant assessment will be undertaken by ND+ and TDC staff as was the case with the previous discretionary grant scheme.

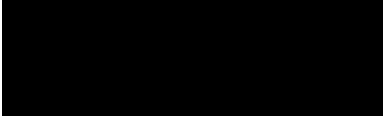
The attached Additional Restriction Grant Policy details the rules by which we will manage the ARG across Northern Devon and the discretions that have been applied by the Local Authority in order that the scheme is relevant to the local economy.

The suggested policy allows the fund to be spent over this financial year and the next. The policy specifically holds back 50% of the fund until next year as it is felt that businesses will still be in need then. The intention is to bring a report to a future Community and Resources Committee for a decision as to how to administer this and how some of the funds might not be given out in grant form but instead be used to provide business support services that will assist with the Covid recovery and have lasting benefit for the local economy.

To wait for the next Community and Resources Committee would mean unreasonably withholding financial assistance intended to support local businesses and therefore it is requested that the policy is approved under urgency procedure immediately.

Subject to approval the scheme will open for application on the 21st November 2020.

Ward and/or Lead Member(s) comments:

	Date:
Strategic Director (Resources)'s Agreement: :	
Signed: N/A .	Date:
Member Agreement:	
Signed: SEE ATTACHED EMAIL CONFIRMATION	Date:
Leader of Council / Deputy Leader of Council *	
Signed: SEE ATTACHED EMAIL CONFIRMATION	Date:
Chairman / Vice Chairman of Community & Resources Committee *	
HoPS/Strategic Manager Approval of Decision:	
Signed: 	Date: 27/11/20
*delete as appropriate	

Once completed a copy of this form should be given to the Democratic Services Manager for record purposes.

IMPORTANT: Please ensure that a report is prepared for the next Community & Resources Committee meeting in accordance with the Report Writing Protocol.

Sean Kearney

From: Councillor James K
Sent: 20 November 2020 11:33
To: Sean Kearney
Cc: Steve Hearse; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Additional Restrictions Grant Policy Urgency Report

Yes thats fine with me
Ken

Sent from my iPad

On 20 Nov 2020, at 09:54, Sean Kearney <Sean.Kearney@torridge.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi All

Please can you take a look at the attached report and Policy and, if you are happy, indicate to approval by return email.

If we get your approval today we can launch the scheme for application in the morning.

A joint TDC/ NDC press release has been prepared and we are ready to go on the website and social media. We have also got the electronic application waiting to go live and ND+ lined up to do the application assessments.

For info, NDC have just approved the same policy as we have developed it jointly.

Thanks and sorry for the urgency

Sean

Sean Kearney Head of Communities & Place
Torridge District Council Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG
Phone 01237 428708
Email sean.kearney@torridge.gov.uk

<image001.png>

<Covid19 ARG Policy Urgency Report.doc>
<ARG Policy Nov 20.docx>

Sean Kearney

From: Robert Hicks [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2020 11:05
To: Sean Kearney; Steve Hearse; Councillor James K
Subject: RE: Additional Restrictions Grant Policy Urgency Report

Fine with me
Bob

From: Sean Kearney <Sean.Kearney@torridge.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 November 2020 09:55
To: Steve Hearse <Steve.Hearse@torridge.gov.uk>; Councillor James K <Councillor.James@torridge.gov.uk>; Robert Hicks [REDACTED]
Subject: Additional Restrictions Grant Policy Urgency Report
Importance: High

Hi All

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Sean

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