

Appendix 1

Decisions made under urgency procedures from March 2020 to November 2021

Decision Date	C&R Meeting Date	Urgent Decision	Reason
09.10.2020	19.10.2020	Implementation of Test & Trace Support Payments & Discretionary Fund	The Schemes needed to be implemented by 12 October 2020 in order to meet the Government deadline.
01.10.2020	19.10.2020	Consultation on changes to the existing Planning system	In order to enable a response to be provided by the Government's deadline of 1 st October 2020.
20.11.2020	7.12.2020	ARG – Additional Restrictions Grant	<p>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.</p> <p>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 its application and delivery.</p> <p>The funds available for use under the ARG total £1.43m and can be used across financial years 20/21 and 21/22.</p> <p>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</p>

			<p>community. Grant assessment will be undertaken by ND+ and TDC staff as was the case with the previous discretionary grant scheme.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Subject to approval the scheme will open for application on the 21st November 2020.</p>
13.01.2021	1.02.2021	Local Restrictions Grant (Open Policy)	<p>Final Version of guidance received from the government in early January 2021 when scheme was payable for restrictions beginning on the 2nd December 2020. Scheme needs to be implemented as soon as possible, and prior to the next C and R Committee scheduled for the 1st February 2021 to assist businesses that are not legally required to close, but nonetheless have been severely impacted by the localised restrictions which have been put in place to manage the coronavirus.</p> <p>Unable to obtain committee approval prior to Implementation as the scheme needs to be put in place immediately, and the next C and R is not due to take place until the 1st February 2021</p>
20.01.2021	1.02.2021	ARG – Amendments	<p>Amendments to the previous ARG policy have been made in order that the eligibility criteria is broadened to benefit more local businesses, the grant amounts are increased and application process streamlined (while remaining compliant and auditable) to ensure that as much of the fund get to it's Intended audience as fast as possible. All Councils</p>

			<p>have been encouraged to distribute the funding as fast as possible by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Decision required under urgency procedure In order that the amended policy and processes can be enacted on the 22/01/21.</p>
12.11.2021	6.12.2021	Household Support Fund	<p>The report seeks approval for TDC participation in the Household Support Fund with DCC and other Devon Districts in the delivery of the Household Support Fund which is due to launch on the 15th November 2021.</p> <p>The fund is designed to support those in financial hardship and to provide quick short-term financial support to assist with items such as food, energy bills, water bills and other essential items.</p> <p>The scheme will run until the 31 March 2022.</p> <p>Full details attached, but this will be a much-welcomed scheme for those struggling this winter.</p> <p>The decision is urgent because the final scheme was agreed yesterday, and DCC would like implementation on the 15th November. TDC have agreed that this is achievable from our perspective, and are keen to roll out the scheme as soon as possible to support those in need over the winter months.</p> <p>Next C and R committee is on the 6th December 2021.</p>