

# Public Document Pack

## CABINET

9 JUNE 2020

### 1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Managing Director declared no interests.

### 2. DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME POLICY

The Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues, submitted a report to agree a Policy for the distribution of the government funding (£1,153,000) in respect of a Discretionary Small Business Grant Scheme.

The government announced on Friday 1 May 2020 that they would be making additional money available to local authorities to support businesses. The government have provided a general overview of the scheme which can be found on their website.

The Council only has a limited amount of funding available from the government for this scheme (£1,153,000). Given the funding pressures that the Council itself is currently facing it is unable to add to this level of resources.

The Council's website has been open for expressions of interest and as of 2 June there were some 157 expressions of interest. This has enabled the Council to capture contact details and has helped in the potential design of the scheme and level of payments that can be afforded with the limited funding available.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave approval for this decision to be made in accordance with rule 26.21 (Special Urgency) of the Council's Constitution.

Under the emergency powers set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution the Managing Director made the decision in consultation with the following Councillors: Cllr Forward, Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Chowney, Cllr O'Callaghan, Cllr Lee and Cllr Patmore.

**RESOLVED –**

## **CABINET**

**9 JUNE 2020**

1. The Council's Managing Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, and the lead member for Financial Management and Estates approve the Hastings Discretionary Business Grants Policy on behalf of the Council's Cabinet under Emergency Powers (part 4 of the Council's constitution rule 26.22).

2. The Chief Finance Officer is authorised to make technical amendments and adjustments to the scheme in consultation with the lead member for Financial Management and Estates to ensure available funding is distributed, and that it meets the criteria set by the Council and remains in line with Central Government guidance.

### **Reasons for the decision:**

1. The Council needs to agree a Discretionary Grant scheme as a matter of urgency to support businesses within the Borough.

2. Developing a scheme which has limited levels of funding that can not be exceeded, requires a degree of delegated authority to make technical amendments and adjustments to the scheme if grants are to be awarded quickly and to those which meet the eligibility criteria.

# Minute Annex

## Managing Director Decision Record

Part 4 of the Council's Constitutional Emergency Powers



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Item:** Discretionary Business Grant Scheme Policy

**Report by:** Peter Grace, Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues (Chief Finance Officer)

**Decision type:** Cabinet

### **Recommendations:**

1. The Council's Managing Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, and the lead member for Financial Management and Estates approve the Hastings Discretionary Business Grants Policy on behalf of the Council's Cabinet under Emergency Powers (part 4 of the Council's constitution rule 26.22).
2. The Chief Finance Officer is authorised to make technical amendments and adjustments to the scheme in consultation with the lead member for Financial Management and Estates to ensure available funding is distributed, and that it meets the criteria set by the Council and remains in line with Central Government guidance.

### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

1. The Council needs to agree a Discretionary Grant scheme as a matter of urgency to support businesses within the Borough.
2. Developing a scheme which has limited levels of funding that can not be exceeded, requires a degree of delegated authority to make technical amendments and adjustments to the scheme if grants are to be awarded quickly and to those which meet the eligibility criteria.

**Decision made in consultation with:**

Cabinet	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor Forward	X		
Councillor Fitzgerald	X		
Councillor Chowney	X		
Councillor Barnett			
Councillor Batsford			
Councillor Evans			
Councillor O'Callaghan	X		
Councillor Rogers			
Opposition			
Councillor Lee	X		
Councillor Patmore	X		

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave approval for this decision to be made in accordance with rule 26.21 (Special Urgency) of the Council's Constitution.

Signed



Jane Hartnell  
Managing Director  
Hastings Borough Council