

Individual Member Decision Record



This form records an individual Member decision and is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Decision Maker:	Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Lead Officers:	Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer, (SDC) / June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services
Title of Decision:	Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme update
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key decision <input type="checkbox"/> Non key decision discharging (or connected to the discharge of) an Executive function <input type="checkbox"/> Specific delegation from Council or Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Grant of permission / licence <input type="checkbox"/> Affecting the rights of an individual <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding a contract or incurring expenditure which materially affects the financial position of the Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision under urgency
Details of decision:	<p>In October 2020 the government announced Covid-19 grant support for businesses in further local and national lockdowns. Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme (ARG) was provided to support businesses who have been severely impacted by a national or local lockdown and are not eligible for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB).</p> <p>In January 21 the Government announced a further £500m in ARG funding to support businesses through the second national lockdown. The Council was awarded £805k from this second tranche of funding; increasing the Council's total allocation to £2.6m.</p>

	<p>In March 21 the Government announced that a further £425m Selby District Council was allocated £2.6 million in ARG funding, and this has been distributed just over 380 businesses in direct business grants.</p> <p>A further £673,000.00 has been received to provide further support to businesses still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The latest guidance encourages local authorities to support businesses from all sectors that may have been severely impacted by restrictions but are not eligible for the Restart Grant scheme, including those outside of the business rates system. Also following the delay to stage 4 of the roadmap, local authorities are also encouraged to focus their support on those sectors that remain closed or are severely impacted by the extended restrictions.</p> <p>The attached report proposes businesses which can still not operate or continued to be affected by the extended lockdown are supported with a further phase 3 of business grants using the additional funding received.</p> <p>As the decision is a Key Decision the Chair of Scrutiny was consulted and agreed that the decision could not be reasonably deferred, and that the decision is genuinely urgent.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as the matter is urgent, and the decision cannot await a full meeting of the Executive due to the need to put in place arrangements as part of the Covid-19 response, the Leader agrees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The proposed businesses set out at paragraph 3.4 of the attached report are supported with a further phase 3 of business grants using the additional funding received; and (ii) That delegated authority is given to the Head of Operational Services to administer the scheme and the Chief Finance Officer is authorised to make technical scheme amendments.
<p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p>To administer the government's Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme to assist businesses severely affected by Covid-19 local and national lockdowns.</p>

Alternative options considered and rejected:	Not applicable.
Member Interests: <i>(Name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision and details of any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service if appropriate)</i>	None declared.
Legal, Financial or other implications:	<p>The ARG scheme is being fully funded by the Government through Section 31 grant payments and will be administered by local authorities.</p> <p>Grants for the ARG will be awarded within the funding allocation limits of the agreed scheme and the spend on this scheme will be closely monitored and the Authority would reserve the right to close the scheme at any time.</p> <p>From the previous ARG recipients up to 183 businesses in the categories identified in this report could benefit from the grant. An average award of up to £3,000 would commit £549,000. However, not all recipients will be eligible, and the awards will be made based on the amount of continued loss and fixed costs. The policy also allows for awards of up to £25,000 for cases of extreme hardship.</p> <p>Fully documented decisions by officers of the grants applied to accounts will be made to ensure all requirements are fulfilled. Local authorities are required to report weekly to central government the numbers and value of grants that have been issued. This report will be submitted using the DELTA system.</p> <p>The decision is within the Budget and Policy Framework therefore there is no requirement to consult the Chair of Policy Review Committee on this occasion.</p> <p>As the decision is made under urgency powers it is not subject to call-in. The Chief Executive confirms that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and is to be treated as urgent.</p>
Background	None.

papers:	
Contact details for further information:	Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer (SDC) kiveson@selby.gov.uk June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services jrothwell@selby.gov.uk
Signed:	<i>Signature redacted</i> Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark Crane
Date of Decision:	19 July 2021