

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS**

<b>Decision No:</b>	<b>D200009EM</b>
<b>Decision Taken By:</b>	Leader of the Borough Council
<b>Authority under which Decision Taken:</b>	Emergency provisions for decision making during a period of serious and unexpected disruption under Part 7 of the Constitution.
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Executive Key Decision
<b>Date:</b>	12 May 2020

<b>Decision(s) and Reason(s)</b>
<b>Discretionary Business Support Grant Scheme – Covid-19 Discretionary Fund</b>
<p>Further to the funding support offered to businesses under the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Scheme, on 2 May the Government had announced additional ‘discretionary’ funding aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property related costs. The Government had stated that priority was to be given to businesses in shared spaces, regular market traders and small charity properties that met the criteria for Small Business Rates Relief, and bed and breakfasts that paid council tax rather than business rates.</p> <p>The headline criteria for accessing this new discretionary funds had been strengthened since the initial announcement by Government in a joint Ministerial letter dated 6 May. Despite final guidance not yet being available it was essential that the Borough Council prepared a Scheme that could be launched as soon as possible. In addition, the funding allocation for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to distribute to local businesses had not yet been specified.</p> <p>In order to get funding support distributed to businesses as quickly as possible, it was proposed that delegated authority was given to Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Transformation, in liaison with the Leader (in his capacity as the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration) and the Deputy Leader (in his capacity as the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Innovation and Property) to determine the scheme within Tonbridge &amp; Malling. In addition, rather than bring grant applications to Members for decision, the approval of grant awards within the terms of the policy should be delegated to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance &amp; Transformation.</p>
<b>RESOLVED:</b> That:
(1) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Transformation in liaison with the Leader (as the Portfolio Holder for

Economic Regeneration) and the Deputy Leader (as the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Innovation and Property to determine a discretionary business grant scheme once the guidance from government has been received; and

- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Transformation to process and determine the grant applications within the guidelines of the scheme.

Taken in accordance with the Emergency Provisions set out at Part 7 Paragraph 1.3 of the Constitution and in agreement with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: J Sergison

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 15 May 2020

This decision is urgent and therefore not subject to call-in (in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 15 (i) as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution) and may be implemented immediately.