

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS**

<b>Decision No:</b>	<b>D200015EM</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>	18 November 2020

**Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

**ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT SCHEME**

The Government had announced a second grant scheme to support businesses affected by the measures imposed during the second National Lockdown in England from 5 November to 2 December 2020. The new Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme provided local councils with grant funding to support closed businesses that did not directly pay business rates and businesses that did not have to close but were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Local councils could determine which businesses to target and determine the amount of funding distributed from the ARG.

Government funding of £2,643,060 had been allocated to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to support the award of grants under this Scheme. Funding provided under the ARG could be used across the financial years 20/21 and 21/22 and if there were further lockdown measures or restrictions announced, it was expected that this would be the continued source of support to business and no further funding would be provided.

It was also noted that Local Authorities had the discretion to use funds for wider business support. However, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) advised that funds should be allocated in line with the broader purpose of the Scheme and used to support businesses affected by the pandemic.

In order to award the grants as required it was necessary for the Borough Council to adopt a Policy and this was attached as Annex 1.

**RESOLVED:** That

- the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme, as set out at Annex 1, be approved.

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: 18 November 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.