

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE NON-KEY DECISION

Decision Taken By: Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Regeneration and Property	Decision Number: D230071MEM
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Date: 8 August 2023

Decision(s) and Reason(s)
Shopfront and Vacant Unit Improvement Grant Scheme
Following consideration of the report attached at Annex A on the Shopfront and Vacant Unit Improvement Grant Scheme, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Regeneration and Property resolved that: (1) the report attached at Annex A be noted; and (2) the increase in the maximum grant award from £3,500 to £5,000 be agreed, ahead of delivering the next round of the scheme.
Reasons for decision: Whilst a maximum grant rate of £3,500 was suitable in the past, with inflation rates high and with High Street businesses struggling due to slow growth in the economy and a drop in disposable income as interest rates reach a 15 year high, it is important that in planning for the next round these matters are taken into consideration. It is therefore proposed that the maximum grant for the next round of the scheme be increased to £5,000 . Whilst required for the reasons set out above, such an increase would also bring this scheme more into line with other grant schemes, such as the Green Business Grant Scheme. However, whilst the case for increasing the maximum grant to £5,000 is strong, there is no requirement to increase the grant intervention rate. This has already been increased once (from 50% to the current 60% between Rounds 2 and 3), and it is important that there remains a requirement for businesses to make a strong contribution to their own project proposals.

Signed Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Regeneration and Property	R Betts
Signed Leader:	M Boughton
Signed Chief Executive:	J Beilby
Date of publication:	8 August 2023

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

