

Additional agenda item

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Urgent Decisions under Emergency Powers - October and December 2020

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 15 December 2020

Report Director: Executive Director

Portfolio: Executive Director

Ward Relevance: N/A

Prior Consultation: The Executive Director, in consultation with the Mayor, Leader of the Council, opposition Group Leaders and the Chair of Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer: Aftab Razzaq, Legal, Democratic and Elections Manager and Monitoring Officer 01788 533521 or aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: No

Forward Plan: No

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):

(CR) Corporate Resources To provide excellent, value for money services and sustainable growth

(CH) Communities and Homes Achieve financial self-sufficiency by 2020

(EPR) Environment and Public Realm Enable our residents to live healthy, independent lives

(GI) Growth and Investment Optimise income and identify new revenue opportunities (CR)

Prioritise use of resources to meet changing customer needs and demands (CR)

Ensure that the council works efficiently and effectively (CR)

Ensure residents have a home that works for them and is affordable (CH)

Deliver digitally-enabled services that residents can access (CH)

Understand our communities and enable people to take an active part in them (CH)

- Enhance our local, open spaces to make them places where people want to be (EPR)
- Continue to improve the efficiency of our waste and recycling services (EPR)
- Protect the public (EPR)
- Promote sustainable growth and economic prosperity (GI)
- Promote and grow Rugby's visitor economy with our partners (GI)
- Encourage healthy and active lifestyles to improve wellbeing within the borough (GI)
- This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Statutory/Policy Background: Due to the current COVID19 pandemic, the Council established emergency powers, in conjunction with the Council's urgent decision procedure under delegated powers, to allow items to be determined. Emergency powers can be exercised by the Executive Director. This is in consultation with Group Leaders, the Mayor and the Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Summary: During October and December, emergency powers were used to make two decisions on issues which required Council approval. The Executive Director, in consultation with Group Leaders, the Mayor and the Chairman Scrutiny Committee approved decisions as detailed in the report.

Financial Implications: All financial implications are detailed in the main reports published on the Council's website.

Risk Management Implications: All risk management implications are detailed in the main reports published on the Council's website.

Environmental Implications: All environmental implications are detailed in the main reports published on the Council's website.

Legal Implications: All legal implications are detailed in the main reports published on the Council's website.

As detailed within the delegated decision notices the relevant emergency powers are set out in [Part 2B paragraph 2.1(a)]

Equality and Diversity: All equality and diversity implications are detailed in the main reports published on the Council's website.

Options: N/A

Recommendation: The report be noted.

Reasons for Recommendation: N/A

Council - 15 December 2020

Urgent decisions under emergency powers - October and December 2020

Public Report of the Executive Director

Recommendation

The report be noted.

Note: With the agreement of the Mayor, the following report is to be considered to ensure all Members are aware of latest urgent decisions taken with regard to COVID related financial support for residents and businesses within the Borough.

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the current COVID19 pandemic, the Council established emergency powers, in conjunction with the Council's urgent decision procedure under delegated powers, to allow items to be determined.

Two further issues were considered and determined using these powers as detailed below. In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the delegated decisions and reports to support these have been published on the Council's website. These can be found at the following link:

https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20088/open_data/459/delegated_decisions_-_2020

2. ITEMS DETERMINED UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS – OCTOBER 2020

2.1 Track and Trace Support Payment Scheme

From 28 September 2020, eligible individuals were entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment of £500. This was to support people on low incomes who were unable to work from home if they were told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and will lose income as a result.

The scheme started on 28 September 2020, and local authorities were expected to have arrangements in place to administer payments by 12 October 2020. Someone told to self-isolate on or after 28 September (but before the scheme was operational in their local authority) would need to be able to make a backdated claim for payment. The scheme would last until 31 January 2021.

Consultation

The Executive Director, in consultation with Group Leaders, the Mayor and the Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees agreed that:

(1) the Executive Director under emergency delegated authority approves the adoption of the Rugby Borough Council Test and Trace Support Payment Schemes as set out in Appendices 1 and 2

(2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Homes in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make any necessary amendments to ensure the schemes remain compliant with any changes in statute/government guidance; and

(3) delegated authority be given to the Head of Communities and Homes to implement and administer schemes in accordance with the principles of the attached policies.

3. ITEMS DETERMINED UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS – DECEMBER 2020

3.1 COVID19 Additional Restrictions Grants Policy

In response to COVID-19 and a second period of lockdown, the Government announced an Additional Restrictions Grant policy on 31 October 2020. This Council received £2,178,700 to distribute to businesses that were not eligible for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (“LRSG Closed” scheme).

As the grants are discretionary, this Council required a criteria in order for businesses to apply for the funding. The criteria has been designed alongside the other Warwickshire Districts and Coventry City Council to attempt to have consistency across the local area. In addition to other Warwickshire Districts, the Federation of Small Businesses was involved in the suggested criteria.

The grants available would be between £500 and £3,000. The guidance makes it clear that local authorities are expected to start making these grants straight away and therefore there was a need for an urgent decision.

Consultation

The Executive Director, in consultation with Group Leaders, the Mayor and the Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees agreed that:

(1) the Executive Director under emergency delegated authority approves the adoption of the Rugby Borough Council Discretionary Grant Policy;

(2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Growth and Investment to implement, amend and administer a scheme in accordance with the principles of the attached policy;

(3) the policy be updated to reflect future restrictions and to ensure the smooth administration of grants; and

(4) the level of grants awarded to individual businesses and eligibility requirements be varied to ensure the fair distribution of grants.

Name of Meeting: Council

Date of Meeting: 15 December 2020

Subject Matter: Urgent decisions under emergency powers - October and December 2020

Originating Department: Executive Director

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY **YES** **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink
1.	https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20088/open_data/459/delegated_decisions_-_2020

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A