


Delegated Decision Record

<p>Subject</p>	<p>LA Discretionary Grants Fund – Craven Scheme Opening of Application Process</p>
<p>Decision including:</p> <p>(a) details:</p> <p>b) Reasons</p>	<p>To open a two-week online application process for business to apply for grants under the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund.</p> <p>The scheme has been introduced by government as part of a range of financial support to businesses in response to dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has produced guidance for councils to follow. It sets mandatory criteria and priorities in respect of the type and size of business to be supported – but also allows councils some discretion to support business in line with local priorities. This means the local scheme adopted can seek to support businesses that are outside of the priority criteria set by BEIS but are important to the local economy.</p> <p>Each council will have to produce its own local scheme, to be approved in line with local decision making arrangements.</p> <p>A scheme for Craven council will be approved by the council's Policy Committee in June.</p> <p>The funding for the scheme is cash limited but the number and range of potential applicants is not known with certainty.</p> <p>Therefore, it is proposed that, in line with other local councils, a time-limited application process is opened to allow businesses to apply for grant support, in order to assess the range and number of potential applicants and to use the process to begin to validate applications. The council's scheme can then be finessed if required in response to the applications made, to try to support as many businesses as possible.</p> <p>There is some urgency to begin this process so that, once the council's scheme is approved and the application window is closed, payments can be made to eligible businesses as quickly as possible. A number of businesses have already contacted the council and are in urgent need of financial support.</p> <p>The application process will be via the council's website. As applications are being made, accounting and validation checks can begin to allow payments to be made as soon as possible after the scheme has been approved and the two-week application window closed.</p> <p>The aim is to open the process as close to Monday 1st June as possible.</p>

Delegated Decision Record

<p>(c) alternatives considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Wait until the local scheme is approved before opening the application process. However, this would mean payments potentially not being made until the end of June or early July, which may be too late for some businesses. Approve the scheme and make payments to known eligible businesses – there is no way to know how many potential applicants there are without an application process, so the council risks over or under paying grant support in respect of the cash-limited pot available.</p>	
<p>Delegated Authority</p>	<p>Chief Executive's emergency power set out in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Constitution 2019-2020)</p>	
<p>Name of those consulted (date, method)</p>	<p>Leader & Deputy Leader Lead Member – Finance Political Group Leaders</p>	<p>Via e-mail Via e-mail Via e-mail</p>
<p>Documents (where can relevant documents be located)</p>	<p>Government guidance FAQs Draft Craven Scheme – to follow asap.</p>	
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>As above</p>	
<p>Declaration of Conflict of Interest</p>	<p></p>	
<p>Decision Maker</p>	<p>Name  PAUL SHEVLIN Paul Shevlin</p>	<p>Role Title Chief Executive</p>
<p>Date Of Decision</p>	<p>1 JUNE 2020</p>	
<p>Date decision notified to relevant Officer (where required)</p>	<p>1 JUNE 2020.</p>	