

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE REPORT

Report Title	DISCRETIONARY GRANT SCHEME			
Purpose of Report	To record the decision made with regards to adopting a Discretionary Grants Scheme.			
Decision(s)	A decision has been made to a. Adopt the Discretionary Grant Scheme for Stroud District Council.			
Consultation and Feedback	Group Leaders of all four parties have been consulted together with the Chief Executive, Section 151 officer and Monitoring Officer.			
Report Author	Simon Killen, Revenue and Benefits Manager Email: simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	The Council has no option other than to administer the Government scheme.			
Background Papers	Government Guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?5432			
Appendices	Discretionary Grant Scheme			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In response to the Coronavirus, COVID-19 emergency, the government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, delivered through the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Fund.
- 1.2 This additional fund is aimed at small and micro businesses that were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund. As it is a discretionary fund, it is a matter for each Council as to how it distributed. In order to achieve some consistency between Councils in the area the Discretionary Scheme has been developed in partnership with 3 neighbouring authorities in accordance with the government guidance.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Local authorities may disburse grants to the value of £25,000, £10,000 or any amount under £10,000. The value of the payment to be made to a business is at the discretion of the local authority
- 2.2 Grants under the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund are capped at £25,000.
- 2.3 The next level payment under the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund is £10,000.
- 2.4 Local authorities have discretion to make payments of any amount under £10,000.

2.5 These grants are primarily and predominantly aimed at:

- Small and micro businesses, as defined in Section 33 Part 2 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 and the Companies Act 2006.
- Businesses with relatively high ongoing fixed property-related costs Businesses which can demonstrate that they have suffered a significant fall in income due to the COVID-19 crisis
- Businesses which occupy property, or part of a property, with a rateable value or annual rent or annual mortgage payments below £51,000.

2.6 Government Guidance asks local authorities to prioritise the following types of businesses for grants from within this funding pot: Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces. Examples could include

- Units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators which do not have their own business rates assessment;
- Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment;
- Bed & Breakfasts which pay Council Tax instead of business rates; and
- Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

3. DECISION

3.1 The Discretionary Scheme has been developed in partnership with 3 neighbouring authorities in accordance with the government guidance and a decision has been made at officer level to adopt the scheme for Stroud District Council

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

Fixed minimum allocation of the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund is £1,417,000

Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources

Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from the decision referred to in this report. This is a Government scheme which is to be implemented using the Council's discretion. The scheme is a guide to ensure a consistent approach and cannot be considered to be binding on the Council in terms of its application.

Patrick Arran, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Tel: 01453 754369 Email: patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk

4.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.