

Executive
11th February 2021

Title: Use of delegated emergency powers – Approval of the policy for Warwick District Council to administer the Government’s Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme.

Lead Officer: Gayle Spencer

Portfolio Holder: Richard Hales

Public report / Confidential report

Wards of the District directly affected: All

Contrary to the policy framework: No

Contrary to the budgetary framework: No

Key Decision: Yes

Included within the Forward Plan: No

Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken: No

Consultation & Community Engagement: No

Final Decision: Yes

Accessibility checked: Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	21/01/21	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	21/01/21	Mike Snow
CMT	21/01/21	Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	21/01/21	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		
Finance	21/01/21	Paul Town
Portfolio Holder(s)	21/01/21	Cllr Richard Hales

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report asks Executive to formally note the approval of Warwick District Council's (WDC) policy for the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme, by the Leader in consultation with the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the Business and Finance Portfolio Holder on 17 November 2020 and finally with the Leadership Coordinating Group on 23 November 2020. This scheme principally, but not exclusively, provides Government funded discretionary grant payments to businesses that do not qualify for grants associated with Non Domestic Rates (NDR), during the current COVID-19 crisis.
- 1.2. This report asks Executive to formally note the approval of Addendum 1 to WDC's policy for the Government's ARG scheme, by the Leader in consultation with the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the Business and Finance Portfolio Holder on 1 December 2020 and finally with the Leadership Coordinating Group on 7 December 2020. Addendum 1 covers a supplemental strand of support under the scheme.
- 1.3. This report asks Executive to formally note the approval by the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders, of Addendum 2 to WDC's policy for the Government's ARG scheme on 12 January 2021. Addendum 2 was once more approved under the Chief Executive's emergency powers, following confirmation from Group Leaders on 19 January 2021, with a minor addition to the text for clarification purposes. Addendum 2 covers a supplemental strand of support under the scheme.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Executive are recommended to provide formal approval of Warwick District Council's policy for the Government's (ARG) scheme and its two addendums, approved under emergency delegated powers as set out in the above summary, to allow Warwick District Council to award the grants in accordance with the policy and guidance from the Government.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1. On 31 October 2020 the Government announced the introduction of the ARG. Final guidance was received from the Government on 4 November 2020. At this time, the Government urged Local Authorities to respond promptly to a second national lockdown which commenced on 5 November 2020 for a period of 28 days.
- 3.2. Whilst Local Authorities have until end of March 2022 to spend allocated funds, more recently, with further national restrictions imposed, the Government has reiterated to Local Authorities the need to be swift in distributing financial support to businesses. To reinforce this direction, the Government has indicated that league tables will be introduced imminently. Given the speed required it was requested that the Leader and Chief Executive exercise their emergency delegated powers in consultation with Group Leaders to approve the policy and its later addendums, in order that payments could be made to local businesses without delay.

- 3.3. A copy of the Policy for the Warwick District Council ARG scheme, Addendum 1 and Addendum 2 is attached at the end of this report for information.

4. Policy Framework

4.1. Fit for the Future (FFF)

4.1.1. These are the words to use:

4.1.2. "The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

4.1.3. "The FFF Strategy has 3 strands, People, Services and Money, and each has an external and internal element to it, the details of which can be found [on the Council's website](#). The information below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy."

4.2. FFF Strands

4.2.1 External impacts of proposal(s)

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment - The provision of grants through the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme will provide financial support for those local businesses and trades that have been affected severely by the restrictions under which they can operate.

4.3. Supporting Strategies

4.3.1. This report does not directly impact on any of the supporting strategies of Fit for the Future.

4.4. Changes to Existing Policies

4.4.1. This report does not bring forward any changes to any existing Council Policies.

4.5. Impact Assessments

4.5.1. There are no impacts identified as a result of this report.

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1. This scheme will be fully funded by Government and grant funding will be provided to Warwick District Council under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

6. Risks

6.1. The risk of not having a policy in place, with its corresponding addendums, to administer this scheme in a timely manner, was averted by the Leader and Chief Executive using their emergency delegated powers in consultation with Group Leaders to provide necessary approvals.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1. The alternative to not asking the Leader and Chief Executive to utilise their emergency delegated powers in consultation with Group Leaders to approve this policy and its corresponding addendums, would have prevented Warwick District Council from awarding grants under this scheme in a timely and acceptable manner.