



URGENT EXECUTIVE DELEGATED DECISION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

PRESENT

OFFICERS Eric Dickinson - Democracy Officer

2. Omicron Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme

Purpose To approve the Omicron Additional Restrictions Grant Fund using Chief Executive urgency powers under Part 3 of the Constitution (Executive Functions).

Reason For Decision Following the imposition of additional restrictions on 21st December 2021 in response to the increasing rates of infection from the new Omicron variant, the government has made available two grant schemes for businesses affected by the restrictions.

Under the Omicron Grant Scheme a range of hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses are identified and are eligible for grants of between £2,667 and £6,000 depending on their rateable value. The government has also made available to Burnley Council a £112k top up to the Additional Restrictions Grant to support businesses severely impacted by the rise of the Omicron variant, that are not eligible for the main Omicron Grant scheme.

It is for local authorities to determine the scope of the Additional Restrictions Grant Top Up based on the guidance provided by HMG.

The Additional Restrictions Grant comes with very tight timescales for implementations with a closing date of Friday 18th March 2022 and with all funding having to be distributed to businesses by 31st March 2022. It is therefore necessary for the decision to be made by the Chief Executive under urgency powers, and call-in waived.

Decision That the Chief Executive using urgency powers under Part 3 of the Constitution (Executive Functions):

- a) Approves the eligibility criteria and grant rates as set out below in this report for the Omicron Additional Restrictions Grant Fund;

- b) Delegates authority to the Strategic Head of Economy and Growth and Head of Finance and Property to approve grant applications;and
- c) Waives call-in to enable businesses sufficient time to respond to a call for bids that has to be closed on 18th March, with payments made no later than 31st March, subject to the prior agreement of the Chair of Scrutiny.

In accordance with and following the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 of Part 4.5 of the constitution regarding the prior agreement provided by the Chair of Scrutiny, it is stated that in the opinion of the Chief Executive this decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in.

Decision made by: Chief Executive

Mark Cottle

Date: 28th January 2022

Decision Published on: 28th January 2022