

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
OFFICER DECISION NOTICE AND RECORD
(PUBLISHED)**

1. DECISION TAKEN

To approve that business grants be made to eligible businesses commencing immediately.

EXECUTIVE	X	NON-EXECUTIVE	(Please tick either)
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IS THIS A 'KEY DECISION' ? (see definition overleaf)		No
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DOES THIS DECISION RELATE TO EXEMPT INFORMATION?		No
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EXEMPT PARAGRAPH REFERENCE (NOT TO BE PUBLISHED)	
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**2. OFFICER DECISION
TAKER**

NAME	Becky McIntyre
POSITION/POST	Director of Governance and Partnerships
SIGNATURE	<i>Becky McIntyre</i>
DATE	30/03/2020

**3. REASONS FOR
THE DECISION
(Please ref to any
report/minute/background
documents attached)**

As set out in the 'SMALL BUSINESS AND RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY GRANTS' decision making report.

**4. ALTERNATIVE
OPTIONS CONSIDERED
AND REJECTED (BY
DECISION TAKER(S))**

No other options available as set out in the 'SMALL BUSINESS AND RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY GRANTS' decision making report

TO BE COMPLETED BELOW - ONLY WHEN A DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION REQUIRES PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH A MEMBER (LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CABINET MEMBER/CHAIRMAN OF A COMMITTEE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 'SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS' OR DECISION/MINUTE OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE OR DECISION/MINUTE OF CABINET/CABINET MEMBER.

**5. DECISION REQUIRED
TO BE TAKEN IN
CONSULTATION WITH
RELEVANT MEMBER**

Cabinet Member Prosperity, Leader and Deputy Leader have been briefed on the requirement for the local authority to pay the grants to eligible business as soon as possible, in line with national criteria in early April 2020.

<p>6. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY EXECUTIVE (CABINET) MEMBER (S) CONSULTED, WHICH RELATES TO THE DECISION, OR (NON-EXECUTIVE) – ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE THAT DELEGATED THE DECISION TAKEN</p>	
<p>7. WITH REFERENCE TO 6. ABOVE - HAS ANY DISPENSATION BEEN GRANTED TO THE EXECUTIVE (CABINET) MEMBER? (ONLY APPLIES TO EXECUTIVE)</p>	

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH ANY ACCOMPANYING REPORT.

WHEN COMPLETE, PLEASE SEND TO SERVICE MANAGER: DEMOCRACY FOR PUBLISHING.

(The definitions of a key decision are when an **executive** decision is likely -

(i) to result in the Council incurring expenditure or the making of savings (including the receipt or loss of income) over £350,000 in any one financial year; or

(ii) to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority).

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

SMALL BUSINESS AND RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY GRANTS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Director of the support to businesses being provided and enabled by Government.
- 1.2. To seek approval to pay small business grants and retail, leisure and hospitality grants to eligible businesses starting immediately.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. In response to the COVID-19 national emergency, the Government have announced several measures to support businesses experiencing very different trading conditions due to the emergence of the virus. This includes measures to be delivered by or through the Council:

- Small business grants fund
- Retail, hospitality and leisure business grants fund
- Increasing retail discount to 100%
- And extending to include hospitality and leisure businesses
- Exempting nurseries from business rates
- Increasing pub discount to £5,000

2.2. In respect of business grants, the Government has confirmed that the following grants are to be made available to businesses:

Grant Type	Eligibility Criteria	Rateable Value	Grant
Small Business	Businesses in receipt of small business or rural rate relief	Up to £15,000	£10,000
Retail, Leisure and Hospitality	Businesses in receipt of Expanded Retail Discount	Up to £15,000	£10,000
Retail, Leisure and Hospitality	Businesses in receipt of Expanded Retail Discount	Up to £51,000	£25,000

2.3. Nationally, the cost of providing small business and retail, leisure and hospitality grant is expected to amount to approximately £13bn and represents a significant fiscal stimulus. North Lincolnshire's share of this allocation amounts to £37.242m. It is envisaged that approximately 3,000 businesses will qualify for grant support.

- 2.4. The Government have made clear their expectation that billing authorities will distribute this funding to businesses as soon as possible, to ensure the support gets to where it is needed quickly. This also means undertaking some checks post payment.
- 2.5. Officers from Economic Development, Accountancy and Local Taxation and Benefits have worked together to establish a process that captures the necessary information from businesses via a simple online form, which in turn enables verification checks to be undertaken prior to payment. It is envisaged that eligible businesses will receive their grants between 5-7 working days after the submission of their online form.
- 2.6. Approval is sought within this report to commence making grant payments to eligible businesses.
- 2.7. The Council will be required to submit regular information updates to Government on the number of grants issued, with other reporting requirements as set out in the national guidance.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. To approve grant payments to eligible businesses in North Lincolnshire in line with national guidance. This is the only option available as doing nothing would mean the Council not implementing national policy to support businesses in North Lincolnshire.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1. The analysis is outlined in the background information in section 2, and means that the Council would be able to start making grant payments to eligible businesses in North Lincolnshire.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1. The Government have committed to fully fund grants to businesses, and are providing local authorities with the cash upfront to start making payments. If the actual quantum of grants actually distributed differs going forward, the Council will either receive additional resource from the Government or return resource if any remains in a reconciliation exercise at a later date.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1. Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1. Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1. Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. Approve business grants to be made to eligible businesses commencing immediately.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Church Square House
High Street
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Author: Adam Hopley
Date: 30th March 2020

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on business support grant funding:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding>