



WELWYN HATFIELD

OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014 RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

1. **SERVICE AREA**

2. **CASE REFERENCE**

3. **DECISION TITLE**

4. **AUTHORITY TO TAKE THE DECISION** **(tick)**

This decision has been taken under a specific express authorisation

This decision has been taken under a general authorisation

The effect of the decision is to:

(a) grant a permission or licence

(b) affect the rights of an individual

(c) award a contract or incur expenditure which materially affects the Council's financial position

5. **DETAILS OF THE DECISION MAKING OFFICER**

Name of decision making Officers	<input type="text" value="Ka Ng"/>	<input type="text" value="Rob Bridge"/>
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Job titles	<input type="text" value="Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services)"/>	<input type="text" value="Chief Executive"/>
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Signatures	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Date this decision was taken	<input type="text" value="2 July 2020"/>
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6. DETAILS OF THE DECISION

Decision taken

Following the running of the discretionary grants scheme application process to extend the application deadline by a week to 10 July 2020.

That grant levels be maintained at the following levels.

Property Fixed Costs Ranges	Grant
£0 - £2,000	£1,000
£2,001 - £5,000	£2,100
£5,001 - £10,000	£4,200
£10,000 - £20,000	£8,400
£20,000 - £51,000	£10,000
£51,000 +	£25,000

Reasons

Funding has not been fully utilised, further applications are likely.

Alternative options considered and reasons for their rejection (if any)

N/A

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED TO INFORM THE DECISION

Background Papers	Location
Delegation of decisions in relation to the scheme – “Covid-19 Financial Impact Update 2020/21” - Cabinet 19 May 2020	https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=1097&Ver=4
Government Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding
Update on progress	Appendix A

8. DETAILS OF ANY MEMBER(S) CONSULTED

Councillor Tony Kingsbury (Leader)

Councillor Duncan Bell (Executive Member for Resources)

Councillor Bernard Sarson (Executive Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Partnerships)

In the case of a decision made under specific express authorisation, the name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest

n/a

9. DETAILS OF ANY OFFICER(S) CONSULTED

Head of Resources

Client Services Support Manager

Community Partnerships Manager

Economic Development Officer

10. OPINION OF DECISION MAKING OFFICER AS TO CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT INFORMATION

In my opinion this record and/or background papers contain confidential/exempt information and the material is therefore not to be placed on the website or disclosed to the public

11. ACTION FOLLOWING THE DECISION

Date of publication

Appendix A

Initial Tranche Update

Applications Received: 91

Accepted 34

Rejected 57

Still under consideration 0

Applications closed at 1pm on 20th June.

Rejected

A summary of the reasons for rejections are as follows

Reason for rejection	Number
Supporting information requested but not provided	14
Have a business rates liability (not a shared space)	10
Homeworkers (not shared office space, rejected in line with Government guidance)	9
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Tenants (no property costs)	8
Virtual Offices (not truly shared space, minimal costs)	5
Received other funding (eg grants under the first grant scheme)	5
Not in Borough (these were referred to the relevant Council)	3
Duplicate submission	1
Charity – Exceeding level applicable for small rates relief	1
Not registered as B&B	1

Still under consideration

There are no applications from the initial tranche, still under consideration in the initial tranche.

The 10 businesses in the table above with a rates liability are now being considered as part of tranche 2. In addition, 1 company in the information requested and not provided will be considered as part of tranche 2, as most information was provided and likely to be accepted. The charity will also be considered as part of tranche 2.

Accepted

The agreed grant levels from the last update note, were as follows:

Property Fixed Costs Ranges	Grant
£0 - £2,000	£1,000
£2,001 - £5,000	£2,100
£5,001 - £10,000	£4,200
£10,000 - £20,000	£8,400
£20,000 - £51,000	£10,000
£51,000 +	£25,000

Based on accepted applications, the cost of the initial tranche was proposals would be £190,700k and the breakdown of businesses paid was follows (the last payment file for the initial tranche was submitted 29 June, and companies were advised to allow 7 working days to hit bank accounts) :

Property Fixed Costs Ranges	Grant	Businesses	Cost
£0 - £2,000	£1,000	0	£0
£2,001 - £5,000	£2,100	7	£14,700
£5,001 - £10,000	£4,200	14	£58,800
£10,000 - £20,000	£8,400	8	£67,200
£20,000 - £51,000	£10,000	5	£50,000
£51,000 +	£25,000	0	£0
Total		34	£190,700

Tranche 2 Update

New Applications Received:	19
Accepted	7 (subject to NFI Fraud Checks)
Rejected	2
Still under consideration	10

New applications close at 1pm on 4th July.

Applications Received from initial tranche being reconsidered:	12
Accepted	8 (subject to NFI Fraud Checks)
Rejected	0
Still under consideration	4

Accepted

No payments have yet been made for tranche 2, a file has been submitted to NFI hub as at 01/07/2020 and usually takes 4-5 working days before return.

Based on the 15 applications likely to be accepted so far, the cost grants to these businesses is likely to be £199,400 and the breakdown of businesses to be paid is as follows:

Property Fixed Costs Ranges	Grant	Businesses	Cost
£0 - £2,000	£1,000	0	£0
£2,001 - £5,000	£2,100	0	£0
£5,001 - £10,000	£4,200	1	£4,200
£10,000 - £20,000	£8,400	3	£25,200
£20,000 - £51,000	£10,000	7	£70,000
£51,000 +	£25,000	4	£100,000
Total		8	£199,400

Those under consideration are potentially to the value of around £150k.
Total to date: £390,100 (including expected grants subject to NFI checks)

Recommendation – extend current scheme until 10th.