

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, SAFETY AND BUSINESS RECOVERY ON 20 MAY 2021

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety & Business Recovery has taken the decision below under General Exception, following the notice published on 4 May 2021.

Reason for Urgency:

This key decision is requested under the General Exception measures as in November 2020 the Government confirmed that Croydon would receive an Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) of £7,734,200. Following the 3rd lockdown this amount was increased by £3,435,165 bringing the total of the Additional Restrictions Grant Funding to £11,169,365, to be spent by March 2022 (an indicative top up grant of £2,674,867 was announced for Croydon in March 2021).

It was decided that Croydon Council would have a three phased approach to this funding, the third phase would be based on providing a combination of business support and grants that would be focused on the recovery of Croydon businesses providing a £5 million business recovery programme this would be agreed at the cabinet on the 4th May (subsequently delayed until the 22nd May)

On the 15th April 2021, Councils across the UK received new guidance that highlighted that government had changed initial guidance. It stressed that the indicative ARG top up grant of £2,674,867 would only be received by Croydon Council if the current allocation of £11,169,365 has been spent or had a commitment to spend by the 30th June - it also confirmed that all business support needed to have been commissioned by the 15th April and all external business support that had been commissioned needed to have been spent by the 30th June 2021.

This has meant that a new programme has had to be scoped that aligned with Croydon Council's outputs and avoided any financial risk for the Council. The new programme ensures that Croydon businesses receive the correct support that has the maximum impact for the social and economic recovery of the borough.

As the programme needs to be implemented as quickly as possible to ensure that the additional restrictions grant allocation of £11,169,365 is spent by the 30th June 2021. It is requested that decision is made under rule 31 general exception to allow grant activity to commence as quickly as possible.

The following apply to the decision below:

Reasons for these decisions: As set out in the report.

Other options considered and rejected: As set out in the report.

Details of conflicts of interest declared by the decision maker: None

Note of dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in relation to a declared conflict of interest by that decision maker: None

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the decision maker the power to make the Key Decisions noted out below:

Decision Title: PHASE 3 & PHASE 4: ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT (DISCRETIONARY)

Key Decision No: 2021CSBR

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report and the requirements of the Council's public sector equality duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Business Recovery in consultation with the Cabinet Member Resources & Financial Governance

RESOLVED: To

1. Approve the proposed criteria and implementation of phase three and phase 4 of the Additional Restrictions Grant funding allocation, as detailed in this report.
2. Note that the Leader has delegated the implementation and management of the Additional Restrictions Grant to the Interim Executive Director of Place.

Signed: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Notice Date: 20 May 2021