

## **SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES - DISCRETIONARY GRANTS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In response to the Coronavirus, COVID-19, the government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, delivered through the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Fund. The government have now provided additional funding which is aimed at supporting small businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund or unable to access other grants or income support.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This additional fund is aimed at supporting small businesses located within the New Forest district with ongoing fixed property-related costs and who have had a significant fall in income due to COVID-19. Government guidance does state that specific businesses are to be prioritised and should there be funding available after awards to these businesses we will prioritise grants to further business categories.
- 2.2 New Forest District Council has £2M in funding available. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with the vires to make these payments. It is not anticipated that further grants will be awarded once the funding has been used.
- 2.3 These grants will be given on a sliding scale in line with the monthly fixed overheads of the business. We have liaised with other council's across Hampshire to agree broad principles of the scheme.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council as any grant awarded is fully funded by Central Government.

### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no environmental, crime or disorder implications.

### **5. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That the Discretionary Grants scheme attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

**7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT**

**7.1 I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.**

**Sign:** CLLR JEREMY HERON

**Date:** 22 MAY 2020

**Sign:** CLLR MICHAEL HARRIS

**Date:** 22 MAY 2020

**For Further Information Please Contact:**

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**Background Papers**

Discretionary Grant Scheme  
Local Authority Discretionary  
Grants Fund Guidance

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 22 May 2020