

**FINANCE, INVESTMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PORTFOLIO HOLDERS DECISION – 29 JULY 2020**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING SCHEME FOR
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES**

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, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. The government have provided additional funding which is aimed at supporting businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund or unable to access other grants or income support.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the closure of the first tranche of Discretionary Grant funding on 12 June 2020 and the Discretionary Grant Funding Scheme for Bed and Breakfast on 24 July 2020 there is residual funding available. This extension of the New Forest Local Authority Discretionary Grant fund is for local businesses located within the New Forest district that have not been eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grant or a Discretionary Grant under our previous schemes. The scheme is aimed at businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector with a rateable value between £51,000 and up to and including £75,000, and who have fixed property costs and have had a significant fall in income due to COVID-19.
- 2.2 New Forest District Council has circa £540k in funding available and is keen to utilise the funding to support as many local businesses as possible. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with the vires to make these payments. There will be no further grants awarded once the funding has been used.
- 2.3 These grants will be distributed depending on the number of applications in accordance with the priority order as stated in the policy. Further priority will be given to those businesses with more employees or where the business is at risk of ceasing to trade due to COVID-19.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 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 The are no equality and diversity implications.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the Discretionary Grants scheme be approved.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

7.1 I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Sign: CLLR JEREMY HERON

Date: 29 JULY 2020

Sign: CLLR MICHAEL HARRIS

Date: 29 JULY 2020

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 29 July 2020

For Further Information Please Contact:

Ryan Stevens
Service Manager – Revenues and Benefits
Ryan.stevens@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers

Discretionary Grant Scheme
Local Authority Discretionary
Grants Fund Guidance

Matt Callaghan
Economic Development Manager
Matt.callaghan@nfdc.gov.uk