

Note of SO58 urgent decision teleconference with Chief Executive - COVID 19 Discretionary Business Grant Fund - Thursday 4 June 2020

Purpose: David Williams, Chief Executive, asked that a web meeting facility be used for him to consult on the urgent decision required on the COVID 19 Discretionary Business Grant Fund.

Reason for urgency: The COVID 19 Portsmouth Discretionary Business Grant Scheme needs to go live as soon as possible as Central Government has provided the funding and told councils to get this out early June. Also many businesses are in desperate need of this funding to survive.

Attendees:

Cllrs - Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Leader of the Council), Steve Pitt (Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development), Councillor Donna Jones (Leader of the Opposition) Opposition spokespersons Councillors Udy and Councillor Coles (standing in for Councillor Morgan).

Officers - David Williams (Chief Executive), Peter Baulf (City Solicitor), Chris Ward (Section 151 Officer), Mark Pembleton (Economic Growth Manager)

The SO58 referral and paper had been circulated to all the required consultees.

The Chief Executive asked Mark and Chris to add anything further. Chris said he had nothing further to add following the briefing yesterday and was happy to take any questions.

Members' Comments

There were no member questions and members were in agreement with the recommendations.

Chief Executive's Decision

David Williams said he was very happy to make the decision as recommended in the report and was satisfied that there was a good reason to proceed.

DECISIONS

The Chief Executive:

- (i) **Approved the Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme with the launch of the scheme starting on 5th June 2020. The scheme can be viewed [here](#)**

- (ii) Agreed that a two week window for applications to be made by affected businesses closing on Monday 22nd June 2020.**
- (iii) Delegated decision making to the Director of Finance together with the Director of Regeneration or their representatives following a technical multi-disciplinary team assessment.**

(This decision would be reported to all members via the Members' Information Service on 5 June 2020)

Meeting duration: 4:00-4:04pm