

Emergency Committee

Thursday 27 August 2020 at 11:30 at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Crompton (Chair);
Councillors Ali, Shaeen, Millard and Moore.

Officers: David Stevens (Chief Executive), Stuart Lackenby (Director – Adult Social Care), Sue Stanhope (Interim Director – HR), James Sandy (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Maria Price (Service Manager- Legal Services) and Rebecca Maher (Head of Finance & Acting Section 151 Officer).

61/20 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Hadley.

62/20 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at the meeting.

63/20 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.

64/20 **Discretionary Business Grant Scheme Update**

The Committee received an update on the Discretionary Business Grant Scheme from the Acting Section 151 Officer.

The key elements of the scheme were highlighted which included a Discretionary Business Grant (DBG) funding total of £3,362,000 available for distribution and a remaining allocation of £1,102,000.



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It was proposed to provide DBG funding to all outdoor market traders that were trading on 11 March 2020 in SMBC markets who had subsequently returned to trade since the easing of lockdown between £2,500 or £1,000, subject to criteria and a further proposal to award SMBC leaseholders a direct DBG payment at a flat rate of either £2,500 or £5,000 dependent on the annual value of the lease (in line with BEIS criteria).

The Chair welcomed the proposals and the measures to address those businesses within the borough that may have previously been left out of this or similar schemes. The Leader was provided with confirmation from the Acting Section 151 Officer that outdoor market traders and SMB leaseholders would be proactively approached to ensure that they take full advantage of the scheme.

Agreed that the Discretionary Business Grant Scheme be extended to target two business categories – outdoor market traders and Sandwell lease holders to ensure the funds allocated are used to their maximum to support businesses in Sandwell.

Meeting ended at 11:39

This meeting was webcast live and is available to view

[broadcast Playback Screen](#)