

Notice of an Executive decision under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

The Cabinet will be considering the following matter, which is a key decision, on 12 January 2022.

Additional Restrictions Grant 3

The item seeks approval to Sandwell's policy for administering the Additional Restrictions Grant 3 (ARG 3) arising from 21 December 2021 announcement from Government to the introduction of grant support for hospitality and leisure businesses in England.

On 21 December 2021, the Government announced that a further £102 million would be made available for Local Authorities, through a top-up to the Additional Restrictions Grant. The ARG funding scheme aims to support businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions and the rise of the Omicron variant, when most needed.

All funding must be spent by the 31 March 2022 and as such, the way in which the council utilises this funding must be aligned to available resources; the council's decision-making processes; and procurement regulations. Flexibility will also be required to enable the council to respond to any changing circumstances over the grant period. It's on this basis that the report come to Cabinet on the 12th January 2022.

The Regulations require that 28 clear days' notice is given before a key decision is made. However, this was impracticable on this occasion as all funding must be spent by the 31 March 2022 and as such, the way in which the council utilises this funding must be aligned to available resources; the council's decision-making processes; and procurement regulations. Flexibility will also be required to enable the council to respond to any changing circumstances over the grant period. It's on this basis that the report come to Cabinet on the 12th January 2022.

Due to this, and in accordance with the Regulations, the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board has been informed of this matter in writing.

12 January 2022

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Governance

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