



# Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

## **Urgent Decision by Chief Executive**

### Purpose of the report

The Officer Scheme of Delegation states that the Chief Executive may take an urgent decision in relation to a Council function (in consultation with the relevant member) if it is in the best interests of the Council and/or residents.

This report is to outline the reasons for a number of urgent decisions by the Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council as part of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Decisions Required:

1. To authorise the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance Management and Governance to approve the Additional Restriction Grant (ARG) policy and related processes for business grants in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.
2. To authorise the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance, Management and Governance to approve the following business grant policies and processes:
  - Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) (Addendum).
  - Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed)
  - Local Restriction Support Grant (Open)
  - Wet Pub Grant

### Summary

The Council is expecting to face extremely challenging conditions as Covid-19 takes effect. Cherwell District Council wants to be in the best possible position to take all necessary actions to support our residents, businesses and service users during this time.

In response to Covid-19 the Government has set out a package of temporary and targeted measures to provide additional support to businesses and to Council Tax payers.

In summary in addition to the measures already introduced in response to the crisis the following new schemes are to be introduced:

- Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) (Addendum).
- Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed)
- Local Restriction Support Grant (Open)
- Wet Pub Grant
- Additional Restriction Grant (ARG)

Summary of decisions required and reason for urgency

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision required</b>	<b>Reason for urgency</b>
Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) (Addendum)	To grant authorisation to S151 and Lead Member to agree the policy and process to award grants to businesses	On 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020 the Government introduced new national restrictions and have provided funding to support local businesses during national restrictions
Additional Restriction Grant (ARG)	To grant authorisation to S151 and Lead Member to agree the policy for 2020-2021 – 2021-2022	The Government has also recognised that some businesses that are required to close may not have a rateable value and that others may not have been forced to close, but they will be significantly impacted by the lockdown. As such Local Authorities have been allocated funding under the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).
Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed)	To grant authorisation to S151 to agree a process for award and payment of grants	New grant to support businesses who remain closed in response to Covid-19.
Local Restriction Support Grant (Open)	To grant authorisation to S151 and Lead Member to agree a policy and process for award and payment of Open grants	LRSG (open) is a discretionary scheme for businesses who were not required to close but are severely impacted
Wet Pub Grant	To grant authorisation to S151 and Lead Member to agree a policy and process for award of grant	One-off grant of £1000 for pubs who are forced to close under Tier 2