

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Executive**

**6 June 2022**

## **Notification of Urgent Action - Additional Restrictions Grant Omicron Business - Grant Payment Levels**

### **Report of Assistant Director of Finance**

This report is public

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Executive of the urgent decision that was taken by the Chief Executive to finalise an additional grants policy in response to the Omicron variant in line with Government guidance.

### **1.0 Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended to:

- 1.1 To note the decision that was taken by the Chief Executive on 8 March 2022 (Appendix 1).

### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 The Constitution sets out that the Chief Executive may take an urgent decision in relation to an Executive function (in consultation with the Leader of the Council) if it is in the best interests of the Council and/or residents.
- 2.2 The Chief Executive took an urgent decision in January 2022 (reported to 7 March Executive, [Minute 114 refers](#)) to adopt an Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) Policy in response to the Omicron variant in line with Government guidance. The policy did not include the level of grant payments that would be made to businesses as the council needed to know how many applications there were in advance so as not to have a bill that exceeded the level of grant remaining.
- 2.2 Based on the number of applications received, it is now possible to set the grant levels for this element of the council's ARG scheme on a basis that mirrors the mandatory omicron grants, which is consistent with the approach the council has taken throughout with ARG rounds.

2.3 An urgent decision needed to be taken by the Chief Executive because the grants must be paid by 31 March 2022 or the money must be returned to the Government.

### **3.0 Report Details**

3.1 The urgent decision notice is attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 The following grant levels for the Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) Policy were agreed by the Chief Executive 8 March 2022 in relation to business grants payable in March 2022. The proposed levels are in line with the mandatory scheme.

Rateable Value	ARG Omicron Grant
No RV	£2,667
Up to £15,000	£2,667
>£15,000 - <£51,000	£4,000
£51,000 or over	£6,000

3.3 The total grant payments made under this phase of the ARG policy was £0.440m.

### **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

4.1 In line with the Constitution, this report is informing Executive of two decisions which were taken by the Chief Executive under urgency powers.

### **5.0 Consultation**

5.1 None in relation to this report.

### **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to note the report. this is not recommended as the urgent action has been taken and it is a constitutional requirement for it to be reported to Executive.

### **7.0 Implications**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report as the decision has already been taken. However, all business grant payments were funded by Government grants.

Comments checked by:  
Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 01295 221845,  
[Michael.Furness@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Furness@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### **Legal Implications**

- 7.2 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report as the decision has already been taken.

Comments checked by:  
Chris Mace, Solicitor, 07702 917916, [christopher.mace@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.mace@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### **Risk Implications**

- 7.3 There are no risk implications directly associated with this report as the decision has already been taken.

Comments checked by:  
Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes,  
[louise.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk), 01295 221786

### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

- 7.4 There are no equality and inclusion implications directly associated with this report as the decision has already been taken and an Equality Impact Assessment for the scheme was completed at the time of the original proposal.

Comments checked by:  
Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy, Tel: 07881 311707, Email:  
[Emily.schofield@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.schofield@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### **Sustainability Implications**

- 7.6 There are no sustainability implications directly associated with this report as the decision has already been taken.

Sandra Fisher-Martins, Programme Manager, Climate Action, Tel 07584 174682  
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## **8.0 Decision Information**

### **Key Decision**

**Financial Threshold Met:** No

**Community Impact Threshold Met:** No

### **Wards Affected**

All

## **Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework**

All

## **Lead Councillor**

Councillor Adam Nell, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

## **Document Information**

### **Appendix number and title**

- Appendix 1 – Urgent Decision Notice

## **Background papers**

None

## **Report Author and contact details**

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