

Exercise of emergency functions – Acceptance of the sum of £53,896,000 (Fifty Three Million Eight Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand Pounds) from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Funding Amount”) for the delivery of the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (“the Schemes”)

1. Part 2M of the constitution of the City Council provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees including to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
2. Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M of the Constitution enables the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader to make decisions required in an emergency.
3. In response to the Coronavirus, Covid – 19, the Government has announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. This support will take the form of two grant funding schemes, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.
4. The Government has also issued guidance which sets out how the grant is to be provided, who will benefit from these scheme as well as the eligibility criteria. A copy of the guidance can be located on https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877065/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v2.pdf
5. The Government has made the Funding Amount available to the Council from 1st April 2020 and this funding will upon receipt need to be added to the Council’s Revenue Budget.
6. In these current challenging times to individuals and businesses, the Council wishes to accept the Funding Amount as quickly as possible in order to provide the necessary support to businesses eligible under the Schemes. The Funding Amount is due to be transferred to the Council on 1st April 2020.
7. On the basis set out above, I am satisfied that the decision being taken pursuant to this emergency provision is critical to the Council’s ability to provide the much needed support to businesses in these challenging times.
8. In light of the above I agree that this constitutes an emergency and I am making the decision that the City Council:
 - accepts the Funding Amount up to the sum of £53,896,000 from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
 - that this Funding Amount be added to the Council’s Revenue Budget; and
 - delegated authority be given to Barry Strain (following consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Service) to manage the Schemes and ensure that any support provided by the Council to businesses are in accordance with the eligibility criteria set out in the guidance referenced above.

I have consulted with the Leader of the City Council to confirm his agreement to this course of action.

A report will be taken to Council at the next appropriate meeting that will include information about this emergency decision.

Signed:

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Chief Executive of Coventry City Council.

Chief Executive of Coventry City Council

Dated: 2 April 2020