

General Exception Notice

Pursuant to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 Notice of Key Decision

Decision to be taken and by whom

1. To approve that residual ARG Funding of approximately £150,000 is diverted from the ARG Growth Fund to support businesses affected by “Plan B” Restrictions and Omicron variant. Additional Government funds (yet to be allocated to councils) will be added to the ARG funds to be included in the support package available.
2. To approve the amended ARG top-up Grant Policy

PH Growth & Regeneration

Reasons why this is Key Decision

Significant impact on 2 or more wards in the Borough and on communities living or working in those areas.

Why was this not included in the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions and why it would not be practicable to defer the decision

Following an announcement by Chancellor Rishi Sunak on 21 Dec 21 Local Authorities are being asked to support businesses affected by the additional restrictions under the Governments Omicron Support package

The urgent decision is required in order to award additional grants to Businesses in the most impacted industries due to the Omicron variant and provide support to struggling businesses across all sectors due to the infection increase of the Omicron variant which has resulted in cancellations and business closures.

The timescales involved in the announcement regarding the grant schemes means that an urgent decision is required to ensure that the eligible businesses receive the grants as soon as possible. It is not considered acceptable to delay the payments due to the adverse affect this would have on eligible businesses.

List of documents submitted to the decision-maker

1. **MBC Additional Restriction Grant (ARG) Growth Fund Policy v1.3**

2. ARG guidance

Part of the Constitution authorising the decision

The Portfolio Holder is authorised to make the decision under the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation.

Rule 2.4 (General Exception) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Chapter Three –Procedure Rules)

In accordance with those rules it is confirmed that:

- Notice in writing has been provided to the Chair of Scrutiny Committee.
- Copies of this notice have been made available to the public at the Council Offices and on the Council's website; and
- The decision will not be made until at least 5 clear days have elapsed since the above bullet points were complied with.

Notice must be given in the first instance to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

The General Exception procedure allows a Key Decision which has been omitted from the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to be taken, provided 5 clear days has elapsed between informing the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and making a copy of this notice available to the public (on the website and displayed in the Council Offices and the decision being taken.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of, or extracts from, documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the decision may be requested from the address given below. In addition, the public may submit other documents relevant to the decision to the same address.