

ITEM 9

**Minute Extract
COUNCIL CABINET
12 September 2018**

Key Decision

60/18 Derbyshire Business Support Grants Scheme

The Council Cabinet considered a report which described the programme that had been devised to invest up to £1.6m (Strand 1) of pooled business rates into a Small Business Support Grants Scheme – see appendix 2 of the report for background information.

The report sought agreement to the Council taking responsibility for the delivery of the Derbyshire Business Support Grants Scheme as detailed in reports to the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity Report and D2 Chief Executives Meeting. The Small Business Support Grants Scheme would be managed within the Council's Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF) team and would utilise the processes which were delivered by the Council's Economic Growth Service to provide grant and or loan funding to businesses.

The Executive Scrutiny Board recommended

- that Council Cabinet amend the proposed scheme to reflect that all those 'liable' for business rates were entitled to access funding, rather than only those that 'pay' business rates, allowing businesses to apply to the scheme who currently receive 100 per cent relief.
- to Council Cabinet that publicity for the scheme reflects that voluntary sector organisations would also be entitled to apply for support.

Options Considered

The proposal had been subject to development and scrutiny by senior officers and leaders across D2 and forms one of three funding streams to help support business retention and business growth. The attributes of other agreed grant funding schemes such as Global Derbyshire were considered in the development of the DEGF proposals to ensure good practice had been embedded. This opportunity had been given by the Government to enhance economic development and regeneration and this option had been decided upon in conjunction with Strand 2 and 3.

Decision

1. To approve the acceptance by the Council of [up to £1.6million] of pooled business rates funds for allocation to the Derbyshire Business Support Grants Scheme ("DBSGS") to be administered by the Council's Economic Growth Service.

2. To approve the delegation of decision-making responsibilities for DBSGS projects to the Cabinet Member appointed to the DEGF Investment Panel, including approval of the detailed business case for each project.
3. To approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Investment Panel as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
4. To approve the decision making for urgent action be delegated to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place following consultation with the S151 Officer, Cabinet lead member responsible for DEGF, and Monitoring Officer (or their designated deputies in their absence).
5. To approve the allocation of retained business rates into the Council's approved Revenue Budget (and then Capitalise as appropriate) on the basis that there were no restrictions in regard to allocating the fund to capital or revenue spend.
6. To approve the cash flow of the fund from accumulation of Business Rates from Derby City Council in the first instance, and then Derbyshire County Council and the Counties remaining districts once agreement had been signed off by all the members.
7. To recommend Council to approve the delegation of decisions about any necessary amendments to the criteria and terms of reference of the Scheme to the D2 Chief Executives group on behalf of the D2 Joint Committee in agreement with the designated Section 151 Officer.
8. To recommend Council to delegate decisions about the management of the 25% of funds retained to the S151 Officer in consultation with the D2 Chief Exec's Group.
9. To note the background to the establishment of the D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity detailed in paragraphs 4.17 and 4.18 of the report, and to endorse the delegation for it to make decisions about the delivery of economic growth in accordance with its agreed terms of reference as per the decision of Council Cabinet in February 2014.
10. That subject to consultation with Derbyshire County Council as the accountable body to accept the recommendation from the Executive Scrutiny Board that the proposed scheme be amended to reflect that all those 'liable' for business rates were entitled to access funding, rather than only those that 'pay' business rates, allowing businesses to apply to the scheme who currently receive 100 per cent relief.
11. That subject to resolution 10 above to accept the recommendation from Executive Scrutiny that publicity for the scheme reflects that voluntary sector organisations would also be entitled to apply for support.

Reasons

1. To comply with the Council's Financial Procedure rules.
2. To enable the proposed programme for this Business Rate Pilot funding to commence under the existing processes and management arrangements for the DEGF.

MINUTES END