



## **North Devon Council**

Report Date:

Topic: Additional Restrictions Grant and Business Support

Report by: Chief Executive

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Council has received a total of £3,685,189 from government to pay in Additional Restrictions Grant. Of that, a total of £3,521,414 has so far been paid to local businesses.
- 1.2. The Guidance issued by government allows authorities to use the funding for business support activities. This report recommends the use of a proportion of the funding to deliver the attached business support scheme in conjunction with ND+.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. That Committee approve the use of £100,000 from the ARG funding to deliver the business support scheme set out in Appendix A.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1. To ensure that a proportion of the ARG funding is used for longer term support for businesses

### **4. REPORT**

- 4.1. As mentioned above, the Council has been allocated a total of £3,685,189 from the ARG scheme. This is on top of funding received for other Covid related business grant schemes. The ARG is a discretionary fund and the Council's scheme has been well received with £3,521,414 having been allocated in direct business grants.
- 4.2. The Guidance issued by Government states that the funding allocated will be used by authorities to fund business support activities. The Guidance envisaged this to consist mainly of direct grants but stated that it could also be used for wider business support activities.
- 4.3. North Devon + is the local authority owned company delivering business support within norther Devon. Feedback from the company shows that there is an acute shortage of funded business support schemes at present resulting in the company being approached by many businesses for assistance.
- 4.4. At present, it is difficult for the company to provide that assistance as it has no funding to do so.

- 4.5. As a result ND+ have drawn up a scheme for delivering business support that can be funded from the ARG. This is attached as Appendix A and ties in with the Northern Devon Road to Recovery strategy which members are being asked to endorse on this agenda.
- 4.6. The scheme envisages a contribution of £100,000 from both North Devon Council and Torridge District Council and will be focussed on business support for sectors hardest hit by the pandemic. There is flexibility within the scheme to react to changes in circumstances and to react to the needs of the area.
- 4.7. The scheme is ready to start rolling out immediately and would run until the end of the financial year which is when any unspent funds would be subject to repayment to Government.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The contribution towards the scheme can be met from the overall ARG allocation

## 6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. (Please detail if there are/are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report. If so, please complete the Equality Impact Assessment Summary form available on Insite and email to the Corporate and Community Services Team at [equality@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:equality@northdevon.gov.uk)).

There are no equality implications as a result of this report

## 7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

- 7.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph 1 – Delegated power in relation to financial matters.

## 8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).  
ARG Guidance



## 10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

- 10.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Head of Resource, Senior Solicitor