



## Urgent Key Decision

Request to a scrutiny chair that an urgent key decision be made without being published in the Register of Key Decisions, and/or that key decision be exempt from call in for scrutiny.

Decision maker	The Executive Leader						
What is the decision?	<p>To delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer to develop (in consultation with the Leader) and implement the administration of new grants to hospitality and leisure business in the city in response to the Omicron variant and the extension of the Additional Restrictions Grant to support a discretionary element of the above scheme.</p> <p>Government made the announcement in the media on 21 December. The government issued further guidance on 30 December and there is a LA web conference on 10 December. Following the delivery of the web conference there is an expectation that LAs will immediately start processing grants.</p> <p>To do this the Council needs to agree approaches for both the OHLG and the ARG scheme as well as application processes, databases, payment schedules and comms campaigns etc.</p> <p>All payments have to be made by the end of March 2022</p>						
<b>List Non-confidential reports</b> Reports to be considered that can be made available to the public	There will be an report produced for the Executive Leader in advance of the Executive meeting on 19 January 2022 seeking the above decision to be made in order to provide support to businesses under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.						
<b>List Confidential reports</b> Reports to be considered which contain confidential or exempt information	None						
Reason for confidentiality	N/a						
Intended date of decision	7 January 2022						
<b>Officer contact details</b> For any further information	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name:</td><td>Julie Price</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tel:</td><td>Director of Customer Services and Transactions</td></tr> <tr> <td>Email</td><td>0161 953 8202 julie.price@manchester.gov.uk</td></tr> </table>	Name:	Julie Price	Tel:	Director of Customer Services and Transactions	Email	0161 953 8202 julie.price@manchester.gov.uk
Name:	Julie Price						
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Email	0161 953 8202 julie.price@manchester.gov.uk						
Has the decision been published in the Register of Key Decisions?	Yes - RKD Ref (2021/12/21A)						

<p>Reasons for <b>special urgency</b> Explain why it cannot be published in the Register of Key Decisions with 28 days notice.</p>	<p>On 21 December 2021 the government announced new grant schemes to support the hospitality and leisure businesses affected by the omicron variant of covid.</p> <p>The intention is to exclusively use government provided funds for this and there will be no contribution from the council. The council will also receive new burdens funding.</p> <p>This is what we know to date</p> <p>Hospitality (defined as accommodation, food &amp; beverage services) and leisure premises will benefit from targeted grant support. The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) will also be topped up so local authorities (LAs) can continue to use their discretion to support other businesses in their area, based on local economic need.</p> <p><u>Headline: Nearly £700 million of targeted grants for hospitality and leisure businesses in England.</u></p> <p>Recipients must be solvent businesses, and ratepayers in the hospitality and leisure sector. For example, a pub; hotel; restaurant; bar; cinema; or amusement park.</p> <p>Grants are per premises and the amount paid is varied by rateable value (RV) of each eligible premises, in three bands: £0-15k; £15-51k; and over £51k.</p> <p>This scheme will cost £683 million nationally.</p> <p><u>Headline: Over £100 million of discretionary funding for local authorities in England.</u></p> <p>At this stage we are not aware of MCC's allocation.</p> <p>In addition, LAs in England will receive a top-up worth a total of £102 million to their ARG fund discretionary grant funding to support businesses in their local area who are experiencing a severe impact due to the Omicron variant.</p> <p>The ARG top up will be prioritised for those LAs who have distributed their existing allocation. Use of this funding is at the LA's discretion but is intended to support businesses who are impacted by COVID-19 but may not be eligible for the hospitality and leisure grant.</p>
<p>Is exemption from call-in for scrutiny needed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Explain how any delay will seriously prejudice the legal or financial position of the Council</p>	<p>Any delay will compromise the Council's position by not meeting the expectations in the grant conditions.</p> <p>It will also have a significant impact on the financial support available to businesses who are now expecting the council to deliver a scheme promptly, including making payments before the end of the financial year.</p>

<b>Scrutiny Chair</b> who has agreed the decision is reasonable and urgent	Name	Councillor Sarah Russell
	Signed	Signature redated for publication purposes
	Date	07.01.21
Request prepared by:	Julie Price, Director of Customer Services and Transactions	