

## 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
What is the decision?	Administration of the Covid 19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF)
<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 19 January 2022 Executive, seeking a decision 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	19 January 2022
<b>Officer contact details</b> For any further information	Name: Julie Price Director of Customer Services and Transactions Tel: 0161 953 8202 Email: julie.price@manchester.gov.uk
Has the decision been published in the Register of Key Decisions?	<b>Yes</b> – RKD Ref (2021/12/20A)
<b>Reasons for special urgency</b> Explain why it cannot be published in the Register of Key Decisions with 28 days notice.	<p>On 25 March the Government announced a new COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) of £1.5 billion. The fund will be available to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.</p> <p>The £1.5 billion will be allocated to local authorities based upon the estimated rateable value in each local authority rating list which falls within the scope of the fund, weighted for the Gross Value Added (GVA) impacts of COVID-19 per sector.</p> <p>The Government is not changing the legislation relating to the business rates reliefs available to properties. Instead, the Government will, in line with the eligibility criteria set out in their guidance, reimburse local authorities where relief is granted using discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will be for individual billing authorities to adopt a local scheme and</p>

	<p>determine in each individual case whether, having regard to this guidance and their own local scheme, to grant relief under section 47. The relief is available to reduce chargeable amounts in respect of 2021/22.</p> <p>The Council is going to receive £23.993m that we will have to pay out within the remainder of the 2022/23 financial year.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Guidance was received on 15 December and a scheme now has to be developed with some urgency. This is a massive amount of work to develop a scheme.</p> <p>The key principles/considerations are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locally designed scheme which will assess economic impact on businesses in the city.</li> <li>• Fully funded by S31 grant (up to the max allocation level)</li> <li>• Can be applied in 2021/22 and reflected in NNDR3, although no explicit mention of carrying forward to 2022/23</li> <li>• Preceptors share to be calculated at year end alongside 2021/22 NNDR3</li> <li>• Relief to be applied <b>after</b> mandatory relief and those funded by S31 but <b>before</b> Discretionary Relief (which the Council funds),</li> <li>• Not applicable to those in receipt of Extended Retail and Nursery Relief, Airport and Ground Operational Support Scheme, or where property unoccupied (other than temporarily as a result of COVID).</li> <li>• Subject to Subsidy Control / State Aid rules.</li> <li>• New Burdens will be available, although details not yet available.</li> <li>• Relief award will be reported via DELTA returns and by Parliamentary Constituency – will need new Capita Academy system changes (main processing system for revenues and benefits) coding to capture CARF and ability to extract from system.</li> </ul>	
Is exemption from call-in for scrutiny needed?	Yes	
Explain how any delay will seriously prejudice the legal or financial position of the Council	<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 redacted for publication purposes
	Date	07.01.22

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Request prepared by:	Julie Price, Director of Customer Services and Transactions
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