**DECISIONS DELEGATED TO OFFICERS**

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| **Decision title:** | Agreement of the Oxford City Council Coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme Top-up |
| **Decision date:** | 27 January 2022 |
| **Source of delegation:** | Urgent decision in accordance with paragraph 9.3 (b) of the Council’s Constitution as follows:  The Head of Paid Service is authorised to take any urgent action necessary to protect the Council’s interests and assets where time is of the essence and it is impracticable to secure authority to act where such authority would otherwise be required. The Head of Paid Service, in so acting, will be guided by budget and the policy framework, will consult the other Statutory Officers before acting and will report, in writing, as soon as practicable to the body which would otherwise have been required to give the necessary authority to act. |
| **What decision was made?** | To ensure timely and appropriate use of further Additional Restrictions Grant Funding in-line with the guidance and local economic need, the decision has been made to:   1. Increase the ARG budget available by £208,367 (total allocation £5,602,741). 2. Approve use of the top-up funds for delivery of the ‘Omicron Additional Restrictions Grant’ (see options considered). Any remaining funds from previous schemes will be also be allocated to this funds in-line with officer and leader delegations agreed on April 26th 2021. |
| **Decision made by:** | Caroline Green, Chief Executive  CMT and Leaders consulted w/c Jan 4th 2022 |
| **Other options considered:** | The grant scheme must be delivered to serve the interests of local business severely affected by COVID restrictions in line with Government guidance. A range of proposals were considered, and implementation of the recommended proposals was decided upon, based on the scheme guidance and local economic needs.  Option Agreed: Further discretionary Additional Restrictions Grants (ARGs) will be made available for businesses operating in the Oxford City Council area that have been severely impacted by the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and have NOT been able to apply for the main Omicron Hospitality, Leisure & Accommodation Grants.  These will be one-off grants of up to £5,000, available to all businesses, including those outside the business rates system, in the hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, travel and tourism sectors, including group travel, travel agents and tour operators, coach operators, wedding industries, events industries, wholesalers, English language schools, breweries, freelance and mobile businesses (including caterers, events, hair, beauty and wedding related businesses), gyms, where NOT covered by the main Omicron Hospitality, Leisure & Accommodation grants.  Grants will be allocated to businesses dependent on their fixed costs, losses and number of employees, though they should not be used to support wages. We have a limited amount of funding, so may close the scheme early if demand exceeds funds. We will make all payments by 31 March 2022. |
| **Documents considered:** | Additional Restrictions Grant LA Guidance and FAQs published 20 January 2022 |
| **Key or Not Key:** | Not Key |
| **Wards significantly affected:** | None |
| **Declared conflict of interest:** | N/A |
| **This form was completed by:**  **Name & title:**  **Date:** | Matt Peachey  Economic Development Manager  26 January 2022 |

**Approval checklist**

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| ***Approver*** | ***Name and job title*** | ***Date*** |
| **Decision Maker** | C:\Users\jmitchell\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\JEVXX3BB\Signature Caroline Capture.PNG  Caroline Green, Chief Executive | 27/01/2022 |