

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY**

Committee: Council

Date: 20 October 2022

Author: John Hill, Chief Executive

[X95]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To note the action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the action taken by the Chief Executive on grounds of urgency be noted.

3.0 **BACKGROUND**

(a) **Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund**

3.1 Further to the Grounds of Urgency request dated 9 February 2022 and reported to full Council on 22 February 2022, which put in place the Council's discretionary Business Rate relief scheme to allocate the £1,649,932 of CARF funding provided by Government. The original intention was to allocate this amount in 2021/22, the year in which the relief applied.

3.2 Applications for this relief were far lower than forecast (a National issue, not an ECDC specific one) and so a second round of applications was requested during the early summer, but this still did not generate enough interested to use the full amount allocated.

3.3 The deadline for applying reliefs to Business Rate accounts was the 30th September 2022, and in order to allocate as much of the relief as possible, it was recommended that we pay all applications received at a multiple of 6.5 of the GVA reduction suggested by Government (and detailed on the original GoU). The original GoU detailed a multiple of 2.

3.4 The decision on the grounds of urgency will enable ARP to apply the reliefs onto the individual Business Rate accounts by the 30 September deadline and ensure that as much as possible of the Government funding is retained within the District. Any money not applied at this date will need to be returned to Government.

3.5 Under the Constitution, the Chief Executive is required to consult with the Leader of the Council prior to delegated decisions being made and subsequently inform the Chairman of Council and Leaders of the other Political Groups on the Council.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 There are no additional financial implications.

4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required for the purposes of this report.

5.0 APPENDICES

None

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
Urgent Action Memo dated: 28 September 2022	Room 103 The Grange Ely	John Hill Chief Executive (01353) 665555 <a href="mailto:john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk">john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk</a>