

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

Committee: Council

Date: 21 April 2022

Author: John Hill, Chief Executive

[W178]

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) Additional Restrictions Grant – Round 9**

3.1 The Additional Restrictions Grant is a discretionary funding scheme for local authorities to support businesses in their local economies during periods of lockdown relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grant, Restart Grant and Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant funding for businesses with a business rates account.

3.2 On 21 December 2021, the Government announced that a further £102 million would be made available for Local Authorities, through a top-up to the Additional Restrictions to support businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions and the rise of the Omicron variant.

3.3 East Cambridgeshire's ARG top-up allocation is £171,696.12. £64,036.00 of this has been distributed to businesses via the ARG Round 8 scheme, £107,660.12 remains unallocated. This must be paid to businesses by 31st March 2022 or be returned to Government. A further ARG scheme for these business sectors will be delivered using the remaining funding.

3.4 The eligibility criteria and priority groups are detailed in the proposed scheme, which is attached at Appendix 1 for your information.

3.5 The decision on the grounds of urgency will enable the Council to implement the scheme and benefit those eligible businesses as soon as possible and ensure the funding is paid to businesses before the 31st March 2022 deadline. The Council will be required to complete weekly returns to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

3.6 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

Appendix 1 – ARG Round 9 Eligibility Criteria

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<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Urgent Action Memo dated: 16 March 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>