

## **URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION**

### **Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency**

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Given the current emergency in respect of the Covid 19 pandemic and the decision taken to suspend committee meetings while social distancing measures continue, the urgency decision provision under Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution has been widened to extend the consultation to include the Leaders of all the political groups on the Council.

**Subject: Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund and Community, Sports & Arts Grants Scheme**

**Appropriate Committees: Leisure & Environment, Homes & Communities and Policy & Finance**

### **Details of Item**

This urgency item is required to secure delegated authority to make grant awards under the Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund and the Community, Sports & Arts Grants Scheme in order to comply with the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations.

Members will be aware that the Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund was approved by Policy & Finance Committee on 26 September 2019. However, the recommendation did not secure the necessary officer delegation to the appropriate Director to confirm the grant awards based on the recommendations of the Member Panel.

The Member Panel established by the Policy & Finance Committee met virtually on 21 May 2020 and the notes from this meeting are attached as an appendix to this urgency item. This urgent decision gives delegated authority to the Director – Housing Health & Wellbeing, following consultation with the Member Panel, to make the grant awards in accordance with the Council's approved Constitution and Financial Regulations. This delegation covers the decisions made on 21 May 2020 and future panel meetings going forward.

This urgency item also clarifies the position in respect of the Council's Community, Sports & Arts Grant Scheme. This scheme has been in operation for many years and was last reviewed when the Council operated a Cabinet System of decision-making. During this period of administration, the Portfolio Holder had delegated power to make decisions on grant awards through this scheme. However, following the return to the Committee System the recommendations of the Member Panel (Chairman and Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson of Leisure & Environment Committee) are now to be delegated to the Director

– Housing, Health & Wellbeing for decision, to ensure that the decisions are in accordance with the Council's approved Constitution and Financial Regulations.

### **Decision**

**That the Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing be given delegated authority to approve grants based on Member recommendations through the Parish & Town Council Initiative Scheme and the Community, Arts & Sports Grant Scheme to ensure that the decisions are in accordance with the Council's approved Constitution and Financial Regulations.**

### **Members Consulted:**

Cllr. David Lloyd – Leader of the Council and Chairman of Policy & Finance  
Cllr. Paul Peacock – Leader of the Labour Group/Opposition Spokesperson for Policy & Finance  
Cllr. Peter Harris – Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group  
Cllr. Gill Dawn – Leader of the Independent Group  
Cllr. Roger Jackson – Chairman of Leisure & Environment  
Cllr. Yvonne Woodhead - Opposition Spokesperson for Leisure & Environment  
Cllr. Tim Wendels – Chairman of Homes & Communities  
Cllr. Kath Arnold - Opposition Spokesperson for Home & Communities

All Members consulted on 18 August 2020, Urgency Item emailed and follow up telephone call or voice mail message left.

Signed: 

Date: 24 August 2020

Director – Housing, Health and Wellbeing