

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

REF No 280.21

A1 Service Area	Revenues, Benefits & Customer Contacts
A2 Title	Additional Restrictions Grant – Business Support Schemes
A3 Decision Taken By	Leader / Chief Officer
A4 Chief Officer	Please print name: Sal Khan Please sign name: Approval by email 270421
A5 Leader	Please print name: Cllr Duncan Goodfellow Please sign name: Approval by email 210621
A6 Date of Decision	

Confidentiality

A7 Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
A7.1 If yes, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972.	

Scrutiny

A8 Which Scrutiny Committee should this decision be submitted to? *(Please tick as appropriate)* ✓

Scrutiny (Audit & Value for Money Council Services) Committee

Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being)

Committee ✓

B1 What is the Decision?	To allocate £72,000 of Additional Restrictions Grant funding for business support schemes during 2021/22
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B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?

Staffordshire County Council have invited the District and Borough Councils across Staffordshire to participate in a collaboration of business support. It is proposed East Staffordshire Borough Council contributes specifically towards two schemes:

'Nil Cost Training Top Up' - £52,000

This would provide a match fund to the existing Skills Hub grant (which pays up to 48% of training costs) in order to enable SMEs to access free training for upskilling.

Business Start-up Scheme - £5,000

The Start-up Scheme provides an online platform that acts as a gateway for advice and support to new businesses.

The County Council will also be contributing to these schemes alongside a number of other support programmes, which businesses and individuals across the County will be able to access.

Complementing the contributions towards these Countywide schemes, it is also proposed ARG funding is used to extend the scope of existing schemes that ESBC is a partner to, which are becoming oversubscribed. These are:

Enterprise for Success Programme - £10,000

EfS is a business support programme that ESBC has been a partner to for a number of years and has proven successful in that time.

Unfortunately, the current contribution of Officer time means the outputs available during 21/22 will be reduced as a result of oversubscription. Contributing funding will not only increase the capacity of the programme, but also of the Council's Enterprise service as the time match requirement will be reduced.

Federation of Small Businesses Membership and Support - £5,000

A contribution of £5,000 between ESBC and SCC has made 27 memberships available through this scheme, however it is already

	heavily subscribed and has been fully utilised before the start of 21/22. An additional £5,000 would create further capacity to carry this scheme on during 2021. This provides small businesses with subsidised membership of the FSB and access to an extensive programme of support and advice.
B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?	This decision contributes towards the Corporate Priority of Community Regeneration
B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?	There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.

Financial Implications

B5 What are the financial implications?	<p>The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:</p> <p>These contributions will be met from the Additional Restrictions Grant funding received from Government in accordance with the relevant supporting guidance.</p>
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Revenue	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Nil Cost Training Top Up	n/a	52,000	n/a
Business Start-up Scheme		5,000	
Enterprise for Success Programme		10,000	
Federation of Small Businesses Membership		5,000	
Total		£72,000	

Capital	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:	<p>Please print name: Lisa Turner</p> <p>Please sign name: Approval by email 260521</p>
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Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	NA
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes
B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	NA
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	NA

Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications:
B8.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):
B8.2 Negative (Threats):
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.
B8.4 [The equality impact assessment identified the following actions to be carried out:]

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): The opportunity to expand the current offer of Business Support and collaborate with a County wide programme, which will provide economics of scale and match investment.
B9.2 Negative (Threats): The risk that these programmes may still be oversubscribed and complete before the end of 21/22.
B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:
B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows: The contributions to any partnership schemes require legal agreements.
This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team Please print name: Angela Wakefield
Please sign name: Approval by email 250521

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications:
B11.1 The proposal would not result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).
B11.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):
B11.3 Negative (Threats):

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:
B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Safety Media for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.
B12.2 [The significant hazards and risks have been identified in the Safety Media Risk Assessment numbered []. Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.]
B12.3 [Control measures and an action plan have been identified for any significant hazards and risks identified in the risk assessment. The positive/negative impacts are set out below]
B12.3.1 Positive (Benefits)
B12.3.2 Negative (Threats)

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision? No

Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:

1. **REVENUE** – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000
2. **CAPITAL** – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000
3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	NA
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	NA

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk