

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 15

meeting date: TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2020
title: COVID-19 DELEGATED DECISIONS
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: OLWEN HEAP

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of the decisions taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Opposition under delegated powers given by the Emergency committee on 7 May 2020 with regard to the Local Government Act 1972, the Coronavirus Act 2020 and other legislation governing local authority decision making.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives –
 - Corporate Priorities – To be a well-managed Council
 - Other Considerations – To safeguard the health and welfare of Members and officers of the Council.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee system operated at Ribble Valley is predicated on Members physically coming together to make decisions in a public forum. The Council Leader and Leader of the Opposition, in consultation with the Chief Executive, agreed that the present Covid-19 pandemic, together with requirements under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and regulations made thereunder, mean that it was not advisable, reasonable or safe for the Council to continue to meet as normal. That being the case, it was necessary to put in place alternative decision-making processes for the Council which had to be within the context of the Local Government Act 1972, the Coronavirus Act 2020 and other legislation governing local authority decision making.
- 2.2 On 4 April 2020, the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ('the regulations') came into force, and will remain in effect until 7 May 2021.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council is required to have arrangements in place to continue to make necessary decisions. The most appropriate mechanism, based on the requirement to avoid social contact and public gatherings, and ADSO guidance for Councils that operate a Committee system of governance, was the delegation of decisions to officers.

3.2 It was agreed at the Emergency committee on 7 May 2020 that the Council delegate the following decision-making powers to the Chief Executive, or in his absence his nominated deputies in consultation where appropriate with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.

- Power to take any decision on behalf of the Council which can lawfully be delegated to officers, subject where appropriate to the decision maker, before taking the decision, having taken appropriate steps to consult the Leader and Leader of the Opposition and if necessary the Chairman of the relevant Committee which would, save for the delegated power, have taken the decision
- Power to cancel Council, Committee or Sub-Committee meetings

3.3 Since that meeting the following decisions have been taken under those powers

DATE	COMMITTEE UNDER WHICH THE DECISION WOULD NORMALLY BE TAKEN	DECISION
8 June 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of allocation of grants to voluntary organisations for the 2020/21 financial year
24 June 2020	Licensing	Approval of the procedure for the Conduct of remote hearings under the Licensing Act 2003
30 June 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of Discretionary Business Grant Allocation Policy and Round 2 scheme
10 July 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of virtual committee meeting cycle from July to December 2020
24 July 2020	Licensing	Approval of the new temporary pavement licence scheme under the Planning and Business Act 2020
4 August 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of Discretionary Business Grant Scheme Round 3
8 September 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of Voluntary Organisation Grant to Citizens Advice Bureau on receipt of performance monitoring information

15 September 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of allocation of residual funding under the Discretionary Business Grant Scheme
14 October 2020	Policy & Finance	Approval of Concurrent Function grants for 2020/21 and late application for Ramsgreave Parish Council for 2019/20

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Budgets either already approved or made available from Central Government.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None arising from this report
- Political – None arising from this report
- Reputation – None arising from this report
- Equality & Diversity – None arising from this report

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee note the decisions made under delegated powers as outlined in paragraph 3.3 above.

OLWEN HEAP
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to CE– Voluntary Organisation Grant Applications 2020/21
 Report to CE – Procedure for the Conduct of remote hearings under the Licensing Act 2003
 Report to CE – Committee Meetings Cycle up to December 2020
 Report to CE – Temporary Pavement Licences
 Report to CE – Voluntary Organisation Grants – Citizens Advice Bureau Performance Monitoring Information

For further information please ask for Marshal Scott, extension 4400

REF: OMH/P&F/171120