

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

16 March 2021

Chairperson: **Councillor M.Harvey**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, D.Keogh, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell, S.M.Penry, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance K.Jones, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, C.Griffiths, N.Pearce, H.Jones, C.Furlow-Harris, C.Plowman and J.Woodman-Ralph

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, L.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees and P.D.Richards

1. Declarations of Interests

The following members made a declaration of interest at the start of the meeting:

Councillor Nigel Hunt Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as he was in receipt of the business support grant.

Councillor Saif Rahaman Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as he owns a business.

Councillor Linet Purcell Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021,

as a family member was in receipt of the business support grant.

Cllr. Rhidian Mizen

Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as he is the Social Sec. of Cwmafan RFC.

Cllr. Sharon Freeguard

Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as she is a Member of the Board of Age Connects NPT.

2. **Urgent Items**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in Minute No. 3 below, the Chairperson agreed that these could be raised at today' s meeting as urgent items pursuant to Statutory Instrument No.2290 (as amended).

Reason for Urgency:

Due to the time element.

3. **Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021**

(At this point in the meeting, Councillors N.Hunt, S.Rahaman, S.Knoyle, R.Mizen, L.Purcell and S.Freeguard reaffirmed their interest in this item and left for the discussion and voting thereon.)

Members were informed of an extension to the current grant support scheme, enabling the Council to make grant payments of £4,000 and £5,000 to eligible businesses in Neath Port Talbot. This is following an announcement from Welsh Government on the continuation of restrictions that came in to effect on 20th December 2020 to March 2021.

Members noted that within this extension there was no discretionary support available for sole traders as previously available in the

previous round. It was noted that this was still a difficult time for businesses currently and some businesses would rely on that discretionary support therefore it was suggested that representation be sent to Welsh Government requesting additional support. Officers informed Members that they had requested additional funding for discretionary support and a further £300,000 was provided, meaning there would be funding available for a 135 grants.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

4. **Access to Meetings**

(Councillors N.Hunt, S.Rahaman, S.Knoyle, R.Mizen, L.Purcell and S.Freegaard re-join the meeting)

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

5. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s**

The Committee scrutinised the following private Cabinet item:

Centre of Rail Excellence in Wales

Members were updated in relation to the current position around the Centre of Rail Excellence in Wales, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON