

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REGENERATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET**  
**BOARD REPORT**

**Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration**  
**3rd December 2021**

**MATTER FOR DECISION**

**WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**Report title: Delegated Powers for Business Grant Support**

**Purpose of Report**

To seek Members approval to raise the upper limit on the Delegated Powers of the Head of Property and Regeneration.

**Executive Summary**

To set out the case for raising the Delegated Powers of the Head of Property & Regeneration in respect of the delivery of Business Grants.

**Background**

In recent weeks the Council's Economic Development Team have been in discussion with Welsh Government regarding the delivery of a Business Development & Recovery Fund. This will be a grant to support capital and revenue costs for businesses undertaking projects to assist with their recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and future sustainability.

The full details and of the fund are still being finalised with Welsh Government, however, Grant awards will be discretionary, and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis, to assess the benefits to the business, its workforce and the local economy. The scheme will be open to all businesses across Neath Port Talbot, employing up to 250 people, and Grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 will be available

Due to the tight timescales for delivery, all funds will need to be committed to a project by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (evidence of orders will need to be provided) and businesses will have until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to complete their project and draw down the grant.

As with other Business grants, this one will also be administered by the Council's Economic Development team. Currently, the team are only able to award individual grants of up to £25,000 by utilising the delegated powers of the Head of Property & Regeneration. In order that this grant may be administered most efficiently and in a timely manner due to the time pressures associated with it, it is therefore proposed that the delegated powers of the Head of Property & Regeneration are increased to £50,000 in terms of approving Business Grants, in order that the team may be able to approve and award funding as quickly as possible.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications to the Council at present, other than staff time.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

At this stage an integrated impact assessment is not required. Any future reports will continue to assess whether an assessment is necessary and this will be incorporated accordingly if so required.

### **Workforce Impact**

Not applicable.

### **Valleys Communities Impact**

The grant is available to qualifying Businesses throughout the Borough, including those within our Valleys' Communities.

### **Legal Impact**

Not applicable

### **Risk Management**

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

No consultation has been required in association with this report.

### **Sustainability**

The approval of this proposed increase in delegated powers will allow the distribution of funding to businesses, to be completed more efficiently.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that delegated powers for the Head of Property & Regeneration are increased from £25,000 to £50,000 in terms of approving Business Grants,

### **Reason For Proposed Decision**

To allow the Economic Development team to utilise the increased delegated powers of the Head of Property & Regeneration in administering this funding.

### **Implementation of Decision**

The decision will be implemented after a 3 day call in period.

### **Appendices**

None

### **List of Background Papers**

None

### **Officer Contact**

Andrew Collins, Regeneration & Economic Development Manager  
a.collins@npt.gov.uk