

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

8 December 2020

Enabling Grants to support New and Existing Businesses

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **Cabinet approves the continuation of the Enabling Grant Scheme as set out in section 4, funded by £71,428 allocated from the Pooled Business Rates Fund.**
- 2.2 **Cabinet approves delegated authority to the Divisional Manager of Property & Growth to approve the Enabling grants.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In late 2016 £71,428 was secured from the pooled business rate fund to offer the Enabling Grant scheme in 2017, with the same amount made available in 2018/19 and 2019/20
- 3.2 From 2016, the scheme has awarded 119 grants to businesses across the District, with many seeing their business turnover increase, some by up to 50%. This has created economic growth and new job opportunities in the District. From the information provided by applicants, the grants were helping to protect 737 jobs and were contributing to the potential creation of 318 jobs. Grants funded a range of projects including apprenticeships, new websites, the purchase of equipment to develop new products and services and upgrading of shop interiors.
- 3.3 Each round of the scheme has been administered within the Council's Economic Development Service and an important aspect of the scheme is that it is easy to access.
- 3.4 Following the success of the latest round, a further application to the Pooled Business Rates Fund, in conjunction with the other West Sussex districts and boroughs, has now been approved, with the Council securing a further £71,428 to continue the scheme in 2020/21.

4 Proposal

- 4.1 The Enabling Grant Scheme is planned to launch in January 2020 on the same simple-to-operate and easy-to-access basis as the previous grant scheme.
- 4.2 Each applicant will be eligible for up to 50% of the total cost of their project, subject to a maximum of £2,000. The grants will not be offered to fund spend incurred by businesses retrospectively.
- 4.3 Smaller grants up to a maximum of £500 will be available for start-up businesses.

5 Outcomes to be Achieved

- 5.1 To create jobs and growth by:
 - giving small businesses the confidence to try something new
 - enhancing the entrepreneurial culture within the District
 - increasing access to new markets for small businesses
 - encouraging investment by small business owners
- 5.2 The application forms will ask applicants to state their intended outcomes, jobs created, business turnover, profit enhancements, etc. The Council will then carry out a post-project evaluation to measure the outcomes. Regular updates will be coordinated with the other participating districts and boroughs to provide updates on grants awarded, match-funding secured and jobs created.

6 Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 Do nothing. With funding available this is not considered appropriate.

7 Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 CDC has received £71,428 from the Pooled Business Rates Fund. If the whole amount is allocated, this will mean that at least £71,428 will be invested as match funding by those businesses securing enabling grants.
- 7.2 The scheme will be administered by the Economic Development Service and no additional resources are required.
- 7.3 The enabling grant scheme is being coordinated county-wide by Arun District Council's Economic Development Service.

8 Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 8.1 This scheme supports the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan.

9 Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		✓
Climate Change		✓
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✓
Safeguarding		✓
Other		✓

10 Appendix

None

11 Background Papers

None