



## Notice of the Making of an Urgent Decision

Para 1 of the second sub-section of section 3 in Part 3 of Chichester District Council's *Constitution* provides for any senior officer to make urgent decisions following consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on any matters where it is not practicable to refer these to a meeting of the Council, the Cabinet or other committee provided that a full report on any decisions taken shall subsequently be made.

A decision of this nature has been made as set out below:

Decision title	Midhurst fire – Business Recovery Support							
Decision taker	Director of Growth and Place – Jane Hotchkiss							
Decision consultees	Leader of the Council - Eileen Lintill Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Clare Apel							
Decision date	04.04.2023							
Decision details	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Due to the fire at the Angel Hotel in Midhurst, and the impact it has had on the local community and businesses, agreed to allocate £300,000 from the general reserve fund to support the businesses.</b></p> <p>Economic Development Officers were present in Midhurst in the immediate days after the fire. To establish businesses directly impacted and businesses indirectly impacted. The officers have listened to concerns, to identify any immediate help and establish any future support requirements. To date (29 March 2023) over 34 businesses have been visited, many of them more than once. In addition, the service has been dealing with calls and emails from impacted businesses.</p> <p>A business recovery sub-group has been established, chaired by CDC Economic Development Manager and attended by CDC City &amp; Towns Co-ordinator, Midhurst Town Team, business reps, Midhurst Town Council, Midhurst Vision and Visit Midhurst. In addition, an Economic Development Officer has been allocated to support the recovery group full time for April and May by moving resources around the team.</p> <p>For the £300,000 to be allocated to the following workstreams:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%;">Estimated/Suggested Cost</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Additional funding for Town Team or Midhurst Town Council</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£50,000</td> <td>Town team producing a list of ideas for small events, promotion, marketing, newspaper</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Estimated/Suggested Cost	Comments	Additional funding for Town Team or Midhurst Town Council	£50,000	Town team producing a list of ideas for small events, promotion, marketing, newspaper
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			<p>ads, Local Midhurst Pound / possible voucher scheme with V2 radio.</p> <p>Free car parking costs to come out of this allocation if agreed as a priority.</p> <p>List of ideas to be prioritised and agreed by the subgroup</p> <p><b>Request partnership funding from Midhurst Town Council, SNPD and WSCC to support this recovery group.</b></p>
	Funding to TGSW to promote Midhurst working with Visit Midhurst	£5,000	Funding for online/social media etc rather than delivery of tangible events etc.
	Business grant scheme	£200,000	Criteria to be worked up. (Similar to enabling grants with delegation to officers) (Need to check business continuity insurances etc) (costs based on 100 independents @ £2,000 per business)
	Delivery of large event (s)	£15,000	Event to be planned later in the year when more certainty over road closure duration. Possible use of UKSP fund to support this
	Support to CDC tenants	£15,000	Different rent payment terms can be offered as a first option. If there is evidence of a reduction in income
	Retail training support	£10,000 (in addition to £30,000 already allocated for District	Potential to target Midhurst retailers for tailored workshops around recovery etc.

		from Pooled Business rates)	Delivery to be by appointed consultant.
	CDC Communication Social media Banners	£5,000	For additional social media boosts (paid), promotions, banners to support town team. Social media boosts for the events and campaigns
	Total for all options	£300,000	
<p>Agreed that delegation is given to the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate services and Director of Growth and Place for the allocation of £300,000 to be flexible between the recommended funding streams.</p>			
Reason for urgency	Support for Business Recovery following the Fire at the Angel Hotel.		
Name and date of the meeting to receive a full report	Council 17 May 2023.		

Jane Hotchkiss  
Director Growth and Place  
4/04/2023