

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (the Authority) Written record of an officer decision

Please forward this form to **Angie Shearon, Governance Services Manager**, when completed, as soon as possible, but at the latest:

- for **Key Decisions** which may be called-in, **to be received by midday on the second working day after the decision is made**, and
- for any **other decision**, within **5 working days**.

Publish promptly - **you cannot implement any Key Decision open for call-in until midday on the 6th day after it has been published as a written record of officer decision.**

Decision-maker	Managing Director of the Combined Authority
Title	ERDF COVID-19 Recovery Grants
Date Decision Taken	25 September 2020
Details of the decision <i>(including any consultation carried out)</i>	<p>For the Combined Authority (CA) to deliver a business grants scheme for small businesses across all of West and North Yorkshire with £1.8m of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) awarded to the CA by the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) in September 2020. The grants of between £1k and £3k are to support businesses to recover from the impact of COVID-19 and, in the process, to be more resilient to future potential business interruption.</p> <p>The grants scheme needs to be implemented at pace to meet the needs of businesses across the region and all funding must be fully defrayed by the end of 2020/21. Therefore, the opportunity to undertake detailed consultation has been limited. However, the CA has consulted with Local Authorities in the region and with a number of key business stakeholders, such as Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and several private sector intermediaries that are members of the LEP's Professionals' Perspective Network.</p>
Reasons for the decision	<p>To accept the £1.8m funding from MHCLG and to deliver the grants scheme with the CA as the accountable body.</p> <p>To agreed to act as accountable body for the funding allocated by MHCLG to North Yorkshire (circa £500k) as well as that allocated to West Yorkshire (circa £1.3m).</p> <p>The above decisions will allow the CA to provide small businesses across the region with critical grant funding that will support them to build resilience to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on their operations. For example, meeting the cost of external consultants to advise on health and safety, financial management or human resources, or, to purchase small capital items / technology to mitigate future business interruption and build resilience.</p>

Any alternative option(s) considered and rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, provide details:	
Is this a Key Decision ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, date notice of the Key Decision was published / whether an exception was relied on:	N/A – exempt from call-in
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, start of call-in period (date of publication)	N/A
		If yes, end of call-in period:	N/A
If the decision is not eligible for call-in by Scrutiny but is a Key Decision, state why the decision is urgent		The grants scheme needs to be implemented at pace to meet the current needs of many businesses affected by COVID-19 across the region. There have been over 2,000 enquiries received to date from businesses. Furthermore, the funding has to be fully defrayed by the end of the financial year, which puts additional time pressure on delivery and on the importance of an immediate mobilisation of delivery resources.	
Appendices attached to this written record <i>(List and identify any which contain confidential or exempt information.)</i>		Request for Decision Report considered and approved by the CA Senior Leadership Team on 25 September 2020 (non-confidential)	
Background documents to be published with the written record		None	
Name of any Member who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision	None		
Contact Officer <i>(For members of the public)</i>	Name: Henry Rigg Post-title: Head of Business Support Telephone number: 07812 670167 E-mail: henry.rigg@westyorks-ca.gov.uk		
Authority for Decision			
The decision-maker was authorised to make the decision by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Combined Authority or a committee resolution, OR • the Officer Delegation Scheme, OR • the Officer Sub-Delegation Scheme • other 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		