

## **Urgent Notice of Motion by Councillor Ryan Houghton, Convener – Local Authority Discretionary Fund**

The City Growth and Resources Committee:-

- (1) Note over £70m Covid-19 Grant support has been disbursed to Aberdeen businesses by the City Growth Business Response Hub, and Committee commend Officers for their hard work in supporting our local economy and protecting jobs;
- (2) Note between 17 November 2020 and 9 February 2021, a £120m Local Authority Discretionary fund, was allocated to councils to disburse as targeted grant support to small and medium-sized enterprises who have received little or no Covid-19 financial assistance since October 2020 noting Aberdeen City Councils share was circa £6.00M;
- (3) Note to date £3.036m has been disbursed to 1,433 recipients based on the priorities set out by the Scottish Government guidance letter;
- (4) Note £3.087m Discretionary Funding remains for disbursement;
- (5) Note the guidance issued by the Scottish Government which states “*local authority decisions on where they should direct their funding allocations must be based on their knowledge of the local economy and understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 regulations and restrictions on businesses within their area. Limits to the funding available through this scheme will inevitably require councils to prioritise which types of business should receive support and so local knowledge will be vital in determining where the funding will be most effectively deployed*”;
- (6) Instruct the Chief Officer - City Growth, following consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener of the City Growth and Resources Committee, to implement and deliver further rounds of grants, based on the guidance noted in (5) above, and subject to any relevant impact assessment requirements, in order to disburse the remaining funding to businesses, in accordance with the Aberdeen’s Socioeconomic Rescue Plan priorities; and
- (7) Instruct the Chief Officer – City Growth to submit an update report on the funding allocations at the 25 August 2021, City Growth and Resources Committee meeting.

## Background

local authority discretionary fund - information for local authorities

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-authority-discretionary-fund---information-for-local-authorities/pages/overview/>

Aberdeen City Council Discretionary Funding Criteria

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-discretionary-business-fund>

Breakdown off Discretionary Fund award allocations by category

<b>Category</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
Individuals	365
Employer Grants (first round 2-50 employees)	143
New Businesses (began trading 2020)	21
Micro Businesses (Under 10 employees)	19
Small Businesses (11-49 employees)	11
Medium sized (50 – 250 employees)	2
Taxi and Private Hire Driver Discretionary Top-up	871