



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Tuesday, 18th August 2020 by:-

Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development

Date notified to all Members: Tuesday, 18th August 2020

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 27th August, 2020. This decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present: Councillor Bill Mordue
Chris Dungworth

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Productivity Grant for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

2. DECISION TAKEN

To approve the acceptance of the ERDF funds in order to provide grants to eligible businesses in line with the criteria set out in the report; and

To allow authority to be delegated to the Director of Economy and Environment (or the Assistant Director of Economy and Environment) in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources (or the Assistant Director of Finance) and the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to conclude a satisfactory funding agreement with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

This recognises the challenges faced by local SMEs and ensures that the Council is accessing ERDF funds along with other Combined Authority partners to enhance the support provided and encourage businesses to make the changes that they will need to adopt post COVID-19.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED



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'Do Nothing' which would mean local businesses would have to apply for support via national schemes such as Innovate UK and Digital Catapult programmes, for example the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund and Knowledge Transfer Partnership. These programmes are notoriously difficult to acquire funding from and are aimed at the more digitally enabled businesses.

It should also be noted that this project is one element of support and it is hoped that as a result of COVID -19, further funding opportunities will become available which will allow us the opportunity to consider increasing staff resource for business support. We could wait to see what these funding streams might look like and disregard this opportunity but there could be delays from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), who will have many challenges and our businesses will need the support coming out of this pandemic.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

None.

7. RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Economy and Environment.

Signed

Decision Maker Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development