

Chief Officer List of Decisions: 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021

Executive Director of Resources (S151)

TITLE / DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION TAKER	REASON
LBB Pension Scheme & Woodhouse College – Agreement to transfer of assets and liabilities	18 November 2020	Chief Financial Officer – S151 officer	Approving the sealing of a legal agreement to transfer LGPS assets, liabilities and membership from Woodhouse College to Frontier Learning Trust
Discretionary LRSG (Open) and ARG Grants	7 December 2020	Director of Resources	<p>In response to Local and National Restriction rules the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced five separate business grants, triggered depending on whether an area is in Local Covid Alert Level High, Very High or National Restrictions.</p> <p>On the 19th November 2020 the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee took the following decisions under Delegated Powers:</p> <p>To Approve the Discretionary Local Restrictions Support and Additional Restrictions Grant Policy.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Finance (S151) to review and alter the policy and administration of the scheme as necessary to meet local requirements.</p> <p>Following Governments announcement of the new tiered system operating from 2nd December 2020 the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy amended the underlying payment term principle for grant awards. This amendment sees a change to the payment frequency from 28 days to 14.</p>

			<p>In response to this change I have approved the following amendments to our Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards will be for 14-day periods not 28 • Award values have been reduced as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o £2,100 payment reduced to £1,050 o £1,400 payment reduced to £700 o £934 payment reduced to £467 o £500 payment reduced to £250 • Added an exclusion that means businesses that have ceased trading since the relevant date are not eligible for further 14-day payment awards. This does not include those who have been legally required to close and intend to re-open when restrictions are lifted.
Discretionary LRS (Open) and ARG Grants	15 February 2021	Director of Resources	<p>Government have announced an extension to the National Test and Trace Self-Isolation payment scheme. The end date has been extended to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>The scheme was approved via DPR in October 2020 with an end date of 31 January 2021.</p> <p>There have been no other changes to the policy.</p>
Kickstart Programme	24/2/21	Director of Resources	Establishment of 30 Kickstart posts
Additional Restrictions Grant Addendum – 5 January 2021 to 15 February 2021	25 February 2021	Director of Resources	<p>Following the latest government announcement, the Business Support Package has been extended to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>The Business Support Package previously covered a 42-day grant award period for Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) Addendum awards, between 5 January and 15 February 2021, replacing the previous 14-day cycle. This has now been extended to 31st March 2021.</p>

			<p>It is our intention as with the initial package to mirror the date period within our Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) and uplift our 14-day award value to the 86-day award value.</p> <p>The one-off Closed Business Lockdown Payment (CBLP) is unaffected and one CBLP for the entire period is payable.</p> <p>The CBLP values in the LRSG (Closed) Addendum remain as follows: RV 15k and under - £9,000 RV £15,001 - £50,999 - £6,000 RV >51k - £4,000.</p> <p>On the 19th November 2020 the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee took the following decisions under Delegated Powers:</p> <p>To Approve the Discretionary Local Restrictions Support and Additional Restrictions Grant Policy.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Finance (S151) to review and alter the policy and administration of the scheme as necessary to meet local requirements.</p> <p>In response to the changes from 16 February 2021 I have approved the following amendments to our Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extension to Covid-19 Discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant Addendum policy. This policy includes the same eligibility criteria, exclusions and guidance as the main policy but contains the changes outlined below.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards will be for an 86-day period not 14 between 5 January. – 31 March 2021. These awards will be the 86-day equivalent of the existing ARG values and not the LRSG (Open) Addendum. (42-days for initial period + 44 days for the extended period). Payments will include a CBLP in line with that received in the LRSG (Closed) addendum. This will be calculated against the mortgage/rent payments. 14-day award values have been increased as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ £1,050 payment increased to £15,450. This includes £9,000 CBLP. ➤ £700 payment increased to £10,300. This includes £6,000 CBLP. ➤ £467 payment increased to £6,869. This includes £4,000 CBLP. ➤ £250 payment increased to £3,536. This payment includes £2,000 CBLP. <p>Any businesses who have already been awarded an ARG for the period 5 January 2021 to 15 February will receive an additional payment to bring their total award in line with the above figures.</p> <p>Values - 14-day award / 14 x 86 and then combined with CBLP.</p>
HRA Depreciation Policy and Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) in financial year 2020/21.	24th March 2021	Director of Resources (\$151)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve 2020/21 change to depreciation policy and use of RCCO to better reflect lifetime of asset; To agree new prudent minimum reserve balances on both the HRA general reserve and Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) as £4m and £2m respectively.
CORPORATE GRANTS PROGRAMME, 2020/21 – GRANT APPLICATION	30 March 2021	Director of Finance (\$151)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant and the special conditions shown in the assessment in question, a start-up grant of £8,614 be awarded to Stonegrove Community Trust.

			(2) That, for the reason set out in the relevant assessment, the application by Living Way Ministries is not supported.
Test and Trace Support Payment Policy	1 April 2021	Director of Resources	<p>Government have announced a further extension to the National Test and Trace Self-Isolation payment scheme. Namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The end date has been extended to 30th June 2021, 2. Parents or guardians can now claim a support payment if their child must self-isolate. <p>As a result of Governments changes the Barnet Policy, which was approved via DPR in October 2020, has now been updated to reflect the new eligibility criteria and extended end date. The updated policy will go live the week commencing 05/04/2021</p> <p>On 12 February 2021 Barnet created an Extended Test and Trace Scheme via DPR in order to support those in category 2 above and to support those earning between £250 and £400 per week.</p> <p>As a result of Governments addition of category 2 into the National Scheme, the Extended Scheme will be closed at the point the updated National scheme goes live. To continue supporting those earning between £250 and £400 per week the National scheme policy has also been updated to allow discretionary applications from those earning up to £400 per week.</p> <p>There have been no other changes to the policy.</p>
Change to Barnet's Crisis Fund Policy	1 April 2021	Director of Resources	<p>On the 1st of April 2020 the Director of Public Health and Prevention in consultation with the Director of Finance took the following decision under Delegated Powers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To approve the temporary change to Barnet's Crisis Fund policy.

			<p>The temporary change to the crisis fund policy was to run initially until the 1st of October 2020. However, when this decision was taken it was not anticipated that the effects of the pandemic would be so long lasting.</p> <p>On 30 September 2020 under a Chief Officer Decision the Director of Resources extended the temporary changes until 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Analysis of the current spend within the crisis fund doesn't show any easing of Barnet residents need for this emergency support.</p> <p>When this is considered alongside the changes being made by Government i.e. the extension of the test and trace support payment scheme until 30 June 2021 it seems sensible to continue with the relaxed eligibility criteria until the 30 June 2021.</p>
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: Grant Funding through RE: FIT Programme-Reference number(s): 16433	8 April 2021	Director of Resources (\$151)	The Council agree to accept the Public Sector Decarbonization grant funding through Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 for The London Borough of Barnet.
SINGLE TENDER ACTION TO SUBSCRIBE TO LINK GROUP TO USE AS A LEASE ACCOUNTING TOOL	12th April 2021	Director of Resources	To subscribe to LINK GROUP to use as a lease accounting tool for IFRS 16 reporting under a Single Tender Action for a period of three years.
Recruitment Marketing Supplier	1st May 2021	Director of Resources (\$151)	<p>To award TMP Worldwide a three-year contract to provide recruitment marketing services across Barnet Council. TMP will be awarded via the LGRP Framework which is an OJEU compliant framework in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, single tender action 6.2, concurrence has been sought and granted.</p> <p>ensuring value for money and assurance. The total estimated total value is approximately £420k for the three-year term and is inclusive of public notices marketing.</p>

PayPoint 1 Year Contract Extension	1/05/2021	Director of Resources	<p>In May 2017 LBB procured an electronic payment service under the PFH Framework to enable payments to be at PayPoint outlets, normally contained within local shops. The contract entered included Barnet Homes and was for an initial 2-year period with the option of two 1-year extensions terminating in May 2021.</p> <p>The council has fully executed the extension options to May 2021. The Exchequer function was heavily involved in supporting the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and were unable to begin a full procurement exercise in time to retender the service.</p> <p>The framework provider, PFH, has confirmed that owing to the Covid pandemic they will permit one further year's extension to the contract (May 2021 to May 2022). The cost is estimated at £0.080m.</p> <p>The additional extension will take the overall contract value to approximately £0.400m.</p> <p>Procurement have been consulted and confirmed that under the constitution this 1-year extension can be approved by a Chief Officer. The value is below the £0.500m threshold requiring a Delegated Powers Report.</p>
Approval of the terms of the Deed of Variation between the Council and Opendoor Homes (ODH) to fund the development of the Hermitage Lane site.	9 June 2021	Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer	<p>Approval of the terms of the Deed of Variation between the Council and Opendoor Homes (ODH) to fund the development of the Hermitage Lane site.</p> <p>Approval of the legal documentation to support the loan to ODH, including the Deed of Variation and the Legal Mortgage.</p>
Staffing Benefit Provider	10th June 2021	Director of Resources	<p>To award Vivup a three-year contract to deliver a staffing benefits managed provision across Barnet Council, Barnet Employees and Partners. Vivup will be awarded via the ESPO Framework which is an OJEU compliant framework in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, single tender action 6.2, concurrence has been sought and granted ensuring value for money and assurance. The total contractual value to Vivup is estimated at £120k from which they will make from their discount providers over a three-year term.</p>

CORPORATE GRANTS PROGRAMME, 2021/22 – GRANT APPLICATIONS	21 July 2021	Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer	<p>The determination of grant applications by three not-for-profit organisations</p> <p>(1) That, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant and, in the case of Barfield Allotment Association, the special conditions shown in that assessment:</p> <p>(i) a one-off grant of £1,500 be awarded to Barfield Allotment Association</p> <p>(ii) a one-off grant of £1,800 be awarded to Barnet Borough Arts Council</p> <p>(2) That, for the reason set out in the relevant assessment, the application by Torah Temimah Primary School Parent-Teacher Association is not supported.</p>
Household Support Fund	28/10/2021	Executive Director of Resources	<p>1. The Government announced on the 30th September 2021 that a new Household Support Fund (HSF) grant will be made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need this winter. This new grant will run from 06 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and totals £500m. London Borough of Barnet's allocation is £2.455m.</p> <p>2. At least 50% of the total funding must be spent on families with children. In terms of type of support, the expectation is that the Household Support Fund should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.</p> <p>3. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have asked for the scheme delivery plans for the period 06 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 to be completed and returned by the revised planning questionnaire to DWP by 29 October 2021.</p>

I have the required powers to make the decisions documented above or have delegated authority to the recorded Officer. I am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in taking the above decision in order to ensure that the decision making framework of the organisation including the Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations are applied. I also confirm that a full audit trail will be retained on file and available on request by the relevant authority.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. J. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Date

17 November 2021