

**Report of Head of Funding Programmes and Business Support**

**Report to Chief Officer Economy & Regeneration**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Subject: Extension to Flood Business Recovery Grant**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. To seek approval to extend the current Flood Business Recovery Grant to provide additional assistance to businesses affected by Storm Eva on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
2. It is proposed to establish an additional grant fund of £400,000 to help the worst affected businesses to recover from Storm Eva. It is envisaged that approximately 40 businesses will be assisted at an average grant of £10,000.

**Recommendations**

3. The Chief Officer Economy and Regeneration is requested to approve the extension of the current Flood Business Recovery Grant to provide additional assistance to businesses affected by Storm Eva on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
4. To approve the additional grant fund of £400,000 to help the worst affected businesses to recover from Storm Eva. It is envisaged that approximately 40 businesses will be assisted at an average grant of £10,000.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To seek approval to extend the current Flood Business Recovery Grant to provide additional assistance to businesses affected by Storm Eva on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 371 businesses were internally flooded in Leeds on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the economic development service has run a number of grant schemes & Rate Relief to help affected businesses.
- 2.2 250 businesses have been assisted to date with total assistance in grant/rate relief of £3m.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Nine Months on, there are a significant number of businesses who are yet to fully recover from the impact of Storm Eva.
- 3.2 It is proposed to establish an additional grant fund of £400,000 to help the worst affected 10% of businesses with a grant of up to £20,000 (average grant level of £10,000).
- 3.3 The grant will be targeted at businesses who are yet to recover their pre flood trading position. The grant will be used to support recovery related costs such as new equipment, refurbishment of premises and investment in resilience related measures which help the business to recover from the impact of Storm Eva.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The executive member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning was consulted on these proposals on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016. Executive Board has received regular updates on the Council's response to Storm Eva.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Business Recovery Grant Fund delivery will adhere to the Council's Equality and Diversity policies.

### **4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 Business Recovery Grant Fund delivery operates as part of the Best Council Plan.

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Funding for the grant fund will be drawn from flood resources allocated to the Council by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 None

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Any risks associated with the Grant Fund will be managed as part of the Council's PM Lite process.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The proposed grant fund will provide additional assistance to help businesses in flood affected areas to recover and help to safeguard jobs .

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Chief Officer Economy and Regeneration is requested to approve the extension of the current Flood Business Recovery Grant to provide additional assistance to businesses affected by Storm Eva on the 26th December 2015.

6.2 To approve the additional grant fund of £400,000 to help the worst affected businesses to recover from Storm Eva. It is envisaged that approximately 40 businesses will be assisted at an average grant of £10,000.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 Executive Board Reports related to Storm Eva, the delegated decision to establish the Business Recovery Grant in January 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.