

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Commercial) (Introduced by the Executive Member (Resource))	Executive Member Decision	16 Dec 2020

GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR REOPENING THE HIGH STREET SAFELY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek member approval for signing the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) with Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) for Reopening the High Street Safely Fund (RHSS)

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members delegate the signing of Chorley’s Grant Funding Agreement with CLGU for Reopening the High Street Safely Fund to the Director (Commercial Services).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- In June 2020 Chorley Council were allocated £105,438 when the RHSS fund was announced. The project is 100% funded by the RHSS programme.
- The scheme is ERDF backed so the criteria and monitoring for claims is only for specific Covid related activities.
- Following outcome of the review by CGLU of Chorley Council’s Grant Action Plan (GAP) and subsequent approval received on the 16.12.20, the Grant Funding Agreement (Appendix 1) is awarded for the full amount without any further conditions.
- The Offer Letter (appendix 2) was only received by CBC Officers on 16th December 2020 requiring a completed return in 14 days but clashing with Christmas Closedown period.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The spend against the RHSSF has already been expended at risk by the council since the fund was announced. If the funding agreement was to be received prior to expending any funds we would have now been 6 months in to the 9 month funding period.
- Many of the funding initiatives have commenced or been completed and the council can now be recompensed by claiming through the scheme.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. The Covid initiatives carried out through the RHSSF scheme could be charged to the Council's own Covid budget but, as these initiatives comply with the ERDF criteria the RHSS funding should be utilised wherever applicable.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	X
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	X	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

11. In June 2020 Chorley Council were allocated £105,438 when the RHSS fund was announced.
12. The scheme is ERDF backed so the criteria and monitoring for claims is only for specific Covid related activities.
13. The Grant Funding Agreement (Appendix 1) is for the full amount without any further conditions.
14. The Offer Letter (appendix 2) was only received by CBC Officers on 16th December 2020 requiring a completed return in 14 days but clashing with Christmas Closedown period.

Funded Activities

15. The funding application for Chorley covered the following:
- Recruitment of 4 Covid Information Officers
 - The acquisition of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation blocks to create safe public space where pedestrians are displaced into the highway by increased pavement café areas
 - Advisory signage across the town centre and district centres
 - Implementation of Queuing Systems
 - Provision of Sanitisation Stations
 - Multimedia campaign promoting safe shopping – including a video
16. The costs of the above activities for the 9-month period (July 2020 to March 2021) are all contained within the grant funding application. The total non-staffing committed expenditure to date is £30k. In addition, as outlined above the council has recruited four Covid-19 Information Officers at an estimated cost of £50k.
17. Any continued application of these initiatives/resource from April 2021 will require funding from the general Covid budget.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

18. If the conditions of the EDRF criteria for the GFA are not met parts of the claim may be rejected.
19. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17. I certify this decision requires immediate implementation. With the lateness of document release from CGLU to the Council and risk that Christmas Closedown may impact upon the receipt of signed documentation by CGLU within the required 14 day period, it is pertinent to facilitate the return immediately.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

20. The total estimated committed costs until the end of March 2021 are £80k. The funding runs until the end of March 2021. Any unspent fund will be returned to Government however the council is looking to commit as much as possible within the tight funding guidelines.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

21. Given the value of the grant it is appropriate to have a signed decision. As this relates to the receipt of monies it is not viewed as a key decision.

MARK LESTER
DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL

Report Author	Ext	Date
Conrad Heald	5507	16.12.20

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Dated 22.12.20

Councillor Peter Wilson
Executive Member (Resource)