

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 14th July 2020
Public / Private*: Public
Minute Reference: C.84/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports
Written response to: Cllr R Alcroft
Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Setting out the updated figures in relation to the % of those in emergency accommodation who were fleeing domestic violence.

Response:

In response, for Quarter 1 (1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020), 17% of all households assisted with emergency temporary accommodation in Carlisle were as a direct result of domestic abuse or the risks associated with this.

Note this equates to 9 cases; comparatively there were 7 cases for the same period in 2019.

Date: 5th August 2020

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 14th July 2020
Public / Private*: Public
Minute Reference: C.84/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports
Written response to: Cllr C Glover
Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Clarifying whether the City Council could access additional funding to enable the Authority to open up a second round of Discretionary Business Grant Funding as had been done by Allerdale Borough Council; and also, whether any lessons could be learnt from the Allerdale experience.

Response:

Carlisle City Council was allocated a fixed budget of £1.36 million for the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund. This is a fixed budget and there is no indication that Government is considering topping up this fund. The Council has now paid out 95.4% of its budget for the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund, to a total of 367 businesses. The Council continues to pay out to the last remaining applicants from our first round, these were challenging cases where more information was required before a grant could be awarded with confidence that the business met the eligibility criteria.

Allerdale District Council had a budget of £1.95 million, moreover, while Carlisle received nearly 500 applications, Allerdale received 272 in their first round. Allerdale therefore had a meaningful amount of funding available after their first round, which has enabled them to open for a second round. As Carlisle has received a higher number of applications to process with a smaller budget, and with nearly all the budget now allocated, with a small amount of outstanding applications to consider, the City Council has not been able to open up for a second round.

All Cumbrian District Councils have been in dialogue throughout this process, sharing knowledge and experiences to support each other. At the same time, in giving Local Authorities discretion to design a scheme to fit local need, this grant programme recognised that Local Authorities would have different experiences, and different needs to cater for in their localities. There is therefore no 'one size fits all' approach for Councils in regard to this fund, and different approaches could be and were adopted when suitable / necessary.

Date: 17th August 2020

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 14th July 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: **C.84/20 – Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder Report**

Written response to: Cllr Mrs P Birks

Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Councillor Birks confirming the manner by which the specialist support to undertake a detailed study on the short, medium and longer-term impacts of COVID-19 had been commissioned; the costs of the report and when such report would be available to Members.

Response:

The report was commissioned by the Corporate Director of Economic Development and comprises of three studies:

1. Technical Paper COVID-19 and the Carlisle/Cumbrian Economy – a high level note that identifies some of the short and medium term economic impacts and potential challenges for Carlisle arising from Covid –19. Available to all Members as an appendix to the report, entitled ‘Carlisle’s Economic Recovery and Renewal Post COVID-19’ tabled at the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel on 7th July. [Appendix 1: Mott Mac Donald -Technical Report](#)
2. Technical Report – Detailed Baseline analysis – this report augments activity 1 via more detailed stakeholder engagement with Carlisle’s major employers, industry representative groups and community stakeholders. - Due in the first week of September 2020.
3. Inputs on COVID-19 on Carlisle Future High Street Fund business case – MHCLG requested answers to several questions relating to the impact of COVID-19. Activities 1 and 2 informed the answers to these questions. The Future High Street business case was submitted at the end of July 2020.

Both activities 1 and 2 will input into the evidence base for COVID-19 recovery planning that will be covered in the Carlisle Economic Strategy, which is being prepared, as well as the city’s Town Investment Plan and Town Fund Application.

The Total Cost of Activities 1-3 was £23,650 which is being funded through the Future High Street project development fund.

Date: 27th August 2020

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 14th July 2020
Public / Private*: Public
Minute Reference: C.84/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports
Written response to: Cllr L Atkinson
Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Clarifying details of the criteria used in assessing applications for the Local Authority Discretionary Business Grants.

Response:

In the application process, applicants were asked to provide: the number of people they employ; details of their fixed ongoing property costs (for example lease or mortgage agreement) and; the levels of loss of income in April 2020 compared to April 2019 (where these months were unavailable for any reason, for example the business had not been trading as of April 2019, applicants could provide income details for different months, as long as these showed the difference in turnover from before and after the Coronavirus restrictions were enacted in March 2020).

The number of employees (number of potential jobs safeguarded), level of fixed ongoing property costs and level of loss of income were all considered when assessing the level of grant award, with higher levels of grant awarded to businesses with higher of these three factors.

The government guidance stated that this grant was predominantly for businesses with property costs (i.e. a rent or mortgage for a business premise), however Local Authorities did have some discretion to award home based businesses in order to tailor the grant fund to suit the local economic need. A high number of home-based businesses applied for the grant in Carlisle. During the assessment process it was felt that these businesses still required some support-many had been unable to access other streams, such as self-employed-income-support. The Council also recognised that many of these businesses still had ongoing fixed costs (and these could sometimes be significant), even if they were not paying rent or a mortgage for a business premise. These applications were therefore considered for a grant award; however, the lower-ongoing costs were factored in when awarding the grant award levels. A total of £279,500 has been paid out to 157 'home based' businesses so far (compared to £1,015,000 to 210 of those based from a business premise).

Grants have been awarded in bands of: £10,000, £9,000, £8,000, £7,000, £6,000, £5,000, £4,000, £3,000, £1,500 and £500.

Alongside our own assessment criteria listed above, the government set mandatory criteria for this fund which business had to meet:

- Businesses had to be trading on or before the 11th March 2020
- Businesses could not be dissolved, insolvent, in administration or where striking off notice has been received.
- Businesses could not have been in receipt of another cash grant i.e. the Retail Hospitality and Leisure or Small Business Grant. (This exclusion does not include SEISS or the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.)

Date: 17th August 2020