



TITLE OF DECISION: COVID-19 ADDITIONAL RELIEF FUNDING (CARF) SCHEME

OFFICER REQUESTING: ANTON HODGE
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S151)

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 27 JULY 2022

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To gain agreement for the increased distribution of funds under the Covid-19 Additional Relief Funding (CARF) scheme so that surplus funds can be distributed to eligible businesses by the 31 August 2022 deadline. The scheme is fully funded by Central Government, Ryedale District Council has been allocated £1,090,079 to assist those ratepayers whose businesses have been (and continue to be) affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) Approval is given to increase the maximum relief award from 15% to 20%.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 The scheme is fully funded and a clear criteria is provided by Government.

3.2 The purpose of the Covid-19 Additional Relief Funding (CARF) scheme is to provide assistance where the business property does not qualify for other relief.

3.3 On 17 February 2022 Full Council approved the Covid-19 Additional Relief Funding (CARF) scheme to assist eligible businesses with a maximum relief of 15% for the 2021/2022 liability.

3.4 The council has surplus funds and is able to increase the relief awarded from 15% to 20%.

3.5 The deadline set by Central Government to award the funding for the Covid-19 Additional Relief Funding (CARF) scheme is 31 August 2022.

3.6 Following approval the additional relief will be awarded to all eligible businesses.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 If the Urgency Power is not utilised, there is a significant risk due to the timings of the required committee meetings the increased relief will not be applied to eligible businesses and funding will be returned to Central Government. Ryedale businesses will miss out on much needed financial assistance which could lead to complaints being received from businesses and cause reputational damage.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
Covid-19 Additional Relief Funding (CARF) scheme is funded by Government.
 - b) Legal
The Council has a legal obligation to award appropriate funding within an approved budget.
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
There are implications for Equalities and Staffing if the Urgency Power is not invoked and payments are delayed. Further, there will be increased pressure on staff within the Revenues & Benefits Team dealing with the increase volume of enquiries.

6.0 MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

- 1.2 Group Leaders are advised that if Urgency Powers are not utilised to gain agreement for the increased distribution of funds under the Covid-19 Additional Relief Funding (CARF) scheme so that surplus funds can be distributed to eligible businesses by the 31 August 2022 deadline, eligible businesses will not receive the additional funding they are entitled to. Any undistributed funds at 31 August 2022 will be returned to Central Government. The implications of the failure to distribute funds to local businesses will deny them much needed financial assistance. Failing or delaying the distribution of funds will also lead to reputational damage to the Council and the potential for a considerable number of complaints.

7.0 CONSULTATION RECORD

According to the Constitution, under urgency powers, decisions usually taken by the Council and its committees are taken by the CEO following consultation with the appropriate elected members.

The appropriate elected members are:

- Group Leaders

Name of Consultee	Councillor D Keal
No response, assume agreement as per email sent on 27 July 2022	
Date consultation completed	29/07/22

Name of Consultee	Councillor S Arnold
No response, assume agreement as per email sent on 27 July 2022	
Date consultation completed	29/07/22


Name of Consultee	Councillor L Burr
No response, assume agreement as per email sent on 27 July 2022	
Date consultation completed	29/07/22

Name of Consultee	Councillor K Duncan
No response, assume agreement as per email sent on 27 July 2022	
Date consultation completed	

Name of Consultee	Councillor J Frank
Agreed	
Date consultation completed	28/07/22

Name of Consultee	Councillor M Potter
Agreed	
Date consultation completed	28/07/22

8.0 DECISION

Decision of the Acting CEO based on consultation	To be completed after consultation
Approved: P Spurr	
Date:	01/08/2022