

REPORT TO	DATE
Executive Cabinet Member Urgent Decision	16 th December 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Urgent Decision: Christmas Support Payments	Finance, Property and Assets	Director of Planning and Property

Is this report a key decision? (i.e. more than £100,000 or a significant impact on more than 2 Borough wards)	No
Is this report confidential?	No

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To approve the delivery of the Government's Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That approval is given to deliver the Christmas Support Payment to qualifying establishments as outlined in the report and the Government Guidance.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3. Central Government have asked Local Authorities to deliver an additional support grant to cover wet-led pubs during the Christmas period.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

4. The report relates to the following corporate outcomes:

An exemplary council	✓
Thriving communities	
A fair local economy that works for everyone	✓
Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	

BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. On 11th December 2020 the Government launched Christmas Support payments for pubs that predominantly serve alcohol rather than food. These have been severely affected by COVID response restrictions. Eligible businesses may be entitled to a one-off cash grant of £1,000 from their local council in areas under Tier 2 or Tier 3 local restrictions.

PROPOSALS (e.g. rationale, detail, finance, procurement)

6. It is proposed that South Ribble roll out the Christmas Support grants to eligible businesses as soon as possible making use of existing systems and processes established for the other business grants.
7. The Government guidance specifies the eligibility as follows:
 - Businesses are based in England, and
 - derive less than 50% of your sales from food, and
 - are in an area subject to Tier 2 or Tier 3 local restrictions since 2 December 2020, and
 - were established in the pub before 1 December 2020
 - Exclusions include businesses who have exceeded the permitted state aid threshold or are in administration, insolvent or has been struck off the Companies House register
8. Officers consider that there are around 80 such eligible businesses in the Borough so the total grant payment value will be around £80,000.
9. It may be difficult for Officers to establish whether a business is predominantly drinks led or not. Licensing and Planning colleagues will be consulted where there is doubt. The process will be reliant on a self declaration from the business to enable fast delivery of the grant.
10. It is proposed that the grant be launched as soon as possible and eligible business be contacted by letter with an invite to apply.

CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

11. None

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. There is not other option as Government have asked local authorities to deliver.

AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS

13. None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

14. The Government guidance is clear on delivery and expectations and proposes businesses to make declarations on eligibility. Processes established for other grants and payments will be mirrored for this scheme.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPACT

15. The grants are available to all wet-led pubs.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

16. This scheme will be administered in accordance with Government guidance, with particular regard to post-assurance payment checks.
17. Initial funding of £38,400 is based upon 80% of the Government's estimate of qualifying businesses, suggesting 48 businesses are in scope. If actual payments exceed this level, the Government has given an assurance that further funding will be provided.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

18. This is a Government initiative that we need to roll out urgently. Colleagues in the Licensing and Planning departments will assist in cases where there is any doubt over whether the establishment in question meets the set criteria. There are no concerns from a Monitoring officer perspective.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-christmas-support-payment-for-wet-led-pubs>

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

None

Jonathan Noad
Director of Planning and Property

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
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Approval of Urgent Decision

I confirm that I consider this decision is one of genuine urgency in accordance with the Council's constitution:



Councillor David Howarth
Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Dated: 17 December 2020

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of the report, I approve the recommendations contained in the report in accordance with the delegated powers in the Council's constitution:

Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

Cllr Matthew Tomlinson
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and
Assets

Dated: 17 December 202