

For publication

Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme Addendum (16 February 2021)

Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Business Transformation and Customers
Date:	16 February 2021
Cabinet portfolio:	Business Transformation and Customers
Directorate:	Digital, HR and Customer Services

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To approve the Additional Restrictions Taxi Drivers Grant Scheme Addendum (16 February 2021) for Chesterfield Borough Council.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Additional Restrictions Taxi Grant Scheme Addendum (16 February 2021) for Chesterfield Borough Council is approved and implemented.
- 2.2 That the Service Director – Digital, HR and Customer Services, in conjunction with the Service Director – Economic Growth and the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation and Customers, is given delegated authority to complete regular reviews of the scheme, ensuring Grant funds are fully utilised for the benefit of local businesses.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To enable Chesterfield Borough Council to widen eligibility for the Additional Restrictions Taxi Grant Scheme, to the benefit of all taxi drivers who are licensed within Chesterfield Borough Council.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 Following representation from licenced taxi drivers within Chesterfield Borough, the council has reviewed and updated the eligibility criteria for the scheme, to ensure that all licenced drivers are able to benefit from the grant.
- 4.2 Appendix A of this report sets out the revised eligibility criteria for the Additional Restrictions Taxi Grant scheme for Chesterfield Borough and the evidence which will need to be provided by taxi drivers in support of their applications to the scheme.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 Consideration has been given to retaining the additional criteria set for the scheme. However, taking this approach would mean that a number of taxi drivers who trade within the borough, but who do not live in the borough, would be ineligible to receive the grant payment. As the council is keen to assist all members who are licenced to trade in Chesterfield borough, the eligibility criteria has been reviewed and updated.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

- 6.1 Development and delivery of the Additional Restrictions grant scheme will support our Council Plan priority to make Chesterfield a thriving borough, by providing financial support to local businesses who have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 7.1 Chesterfield Borough Council has allocated £360,000 to support taxi drivers who are licenced to trade in Chesterfield. The grant funding scheme is available for applications until 31 March 2021.
- 7.2 Delegated authority has been provided for the Service Director – Digital, HR and Customer Services, in consultation with the Service Director – Economic Growth and the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation and Customers, to complete regular reviews of the

scheme, ensuring Grant funds are fully utilised for the benefit of local businesses.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

8.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides Local Authorities with the powers to make these grant payments.

8.2 Privacy notices and Data Protection impact assessments have been completed for this new process.

8.3 Chesterfield Borough Council will provide regular progress updates to Central Government with regards to the development and implementation of its Additional Restrictions Grant scheme.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

9.1 Responsibility for implementation of the scheme will rest with the Service Director – Digital, HR and Customer Services, supported by several officers from across the Council, who have been brought together to form a temporary business grants team.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Over subscription of the grant	High	High	The Policy provides clarity on the eligibility for the scheme. Regular review mechanisms have been built into the administration of the scheme, ensuring that as many Chesterfield businesses as possible can benefit from funding.	High	Low
Administration backlogs will delay grant payments	High	High	Adequate resources have been identified to support this	High	Low

made to Chesterfield businesses			process, with the ability to scale the team where necessary		
Grant payment is made to ineligible people.	High	Medium	The policy provides clarity on grant eligibility. The process for grant payment requires supporting evidence to be submitted. The application is clear that ineligible payments will be subject to recall and possible fraud investigation	Medium	Low

11.0 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing

11.1 The provision of financial support to eligible businesses during this challenging period will go some way towards strengthening their ongoing viability and as a consequence, may help to limit unemployment levels within the borough. Taking this action should have a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of the men and women that make up our business community, many of which are already asking for additional support to keep their businesses afloat.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

12.1 The Additional Restrictions Grant scheme is directed at those businesses who are not eligible to receive the Local Restrictions Grant, but which have been significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

12.2 Funding of £360,000 has been allocated to support Chesterfield taxi drivers whilst national or regional restrictions are in place.

13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

13.1 The Council has developed an online application form and will ensure that grant payments are credited directly to business bank accounts. This will reduce the need for paper transactions and travel between business premises and council offices.

14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

14.1 The scheme has been developed to ensure that businesses excluded from the Local Restrictions Grant scheme within Chesterfield borough can receive support during the period that national and local restrictions are in place, subject to meeting the scheme's eligibility criteria.

14.2 The scheme eligibility has been revised to ensure that all taxi drivers who hold a licence to trade within Chesterfield Borough are eligible to receive the grant. This ensures that living outside the borough does not disadvantage applicants.

14.3 Eligibility for the scheme will be regularly reviewed to reflect the impact of national and local restrictions.

Decision information

Key decision	Decision taken under delegated authority granted by the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation and Customers on 13 November, 2020
Wards affected	All wards

Document information

Report author	
Rachel O'Neil, Service Director - Digital, HR and Customer Services	
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Additional Restrictions Taxi Grant Addendum (16 February 2021) for Chesterfield Borough