

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Friday 29 January 2021

Present

Councillors Kate Campbell (Convener), Watt (Vice-Convener), Booth, Jim Campbell, Hutchison, Key, Miller, Mowat (substituting for Councillor McLellan), Munro, Work and Young (substituting for Councillor Lang).

1. Scottish Government Discretionary Grant Funding for Businesses

A proposed approach to administering the Scottish Government's Discretionary Grant Fund was set out, in order to support those businesses most in need. A framework for implementing this was recommended.

Motion

- 1) To note the funding made available by the Scottish Government for City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities "to provide additional support for businesses where they considered that necessary or justified".
 - 2) To note the complexity in ensuring that support could be provided to as many businesses as possible.
 - 3) To approve the recommended fund framework as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
 - 4) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, to make changes to this framework.
 - 5) To note that yesterday the Scottish Government had announced that the Discretionary Grants Fund would increase from £30m to £60m and that Edinburgh should therefore be able expect a significant uplift in funding. To note that we did not yet have certainty on the exact amount Edinburgh would receive but to agree the principle that we should look to support as many businesses as possible. Therefore, to give authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener, to increase the number of applications the fund would be open to, in line with any additional funding received. To recognise that this could include reopening the fund in future.
- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the funding made available by the Scottish Government for City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities “to provide additional support for businesses where they considered that necessary or justified”.
 - 2) To note the complexity in ensuring that support could be provided to as many businesses as possible.
 - 3) To agree the eligibility criteria and evidence to be required for making an application, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
 - 4) To not agree with the proposed ‘first come, first served’ approach for the issuing grants as set out in Appendix 1; to agree that businesses should instead have a 9am-5pm period on a defined day in which to make an application, with all valid applications received in this period being afforded a fair chance to be awarded a grant.
 - 5) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, to make changes to this framework to ensure access to this fund would remain limited to those who remained ineligible for any other Scottish Government support fund introduced since 1 October, excluding the Newly Self Employed Hardship Fund.
- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

Voting

For the motion - 7 votes
For the amendment - 4 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Booth, Kate Campbell, Key, Miller, Munro, Watt and Work.

For the amendment – Councillors Jim Campbell, Hutchison, Mowat and Young.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.

(References – Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee of 14 January 2021 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)