

**(i) Urgent Cabinet Decision – 10 March 2022
Re. Business Rates Covid 19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF)**

Decision taken:

Having considered the attached report and reason for urgency the decision is made to:

- approve the proposed use of the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) scheme as detailed in the report in line with the government guidance and available funding; and
- delegate the final allocation of available funding to the Executive Director of Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- ensure applications to the scheme to be open for the period 1st March 2022 to 15th April 2022
- ensure the available funding is divided out on a percentage basis across the resulting qualifying businesses.

The reason why this decision was urgent and could not be reasonably deferred was:

The scheme was announced by the Chancellor in his budget in March 2021 to help Businesses who had not been eligible to receive any discounts or grants introduced as a result of COVID-19. Guidance was provided by the Government at the end of December 2021 for Local Authority's to write their own discretionary scheme to support local businesses in line with the guidance. The policy needs urgent approval as payment of the reliefs must be done by September 2022 and no decisions on applications can be made until the end of the application process which is a period of 6 weeks. The discounts are to help offset the negative impact of COVID-19 for mainly manufacturing businesses who may be continuing to struggle financially and urgently need the help.