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THE CABINET

MEETING, 13TH JUNE, 2022

Councillor Cox	Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Deputy Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Haslam	Highways and Transport
Councillor Warren	Regeneration
Councillor Galloway	Children's Services
Councillor Baines	Wellbeing
Councillor Hewitt	Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Morgan	Adult Social Care
Councillor Muslim	Environmental Service Delivery
Councillor Dean	Stronger Communities

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Walsh
Councillor Radcliffe
Councillor Peel
Councillor Donaghy
Councillor Haworth
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Heslop
Councillor Grant

Officers

Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Eckersley-Fallon, Sanders and Mrs. Thomas.

Councillor Cox in the Chair.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25th April, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

2. COVID-19 ADDITIONAL RELIEF FUND (CARF)

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which sought member's approval of the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) Scheme.

By way of background, members were reminded that on 8th February, 2022 approval was given to open applications for Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF), a business rates relief to be applied to occupied rates charges in the 2021/2022 financial year for businesses that had not been able to receive other business rates relief. It was explained that, due to the uncertainty about the level of demand for this funding, it was agreed to only set the level of relief once initial applications had been received.

Members were advised that the relief was available to reduce chargeable amounts in respect of 2021/2022 and those eligible for inclusion in the scheme were:-

- Ratepayers with a business rates occupied charge to pay after the deduction of other relief subject to Subsidy limits; and
- Who don't receive or were eligible for Relief Discount or Nursery Discount in 2021/2022; and
- Who had been adversely affected by the pandemic and had been unable to adequately adapt to that impact.

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In order to be considered for relief businesses must demonstrate that they met the above eligibility criteria as detailed above by providing:-

- Evidence to demonstrate a substantial loss of income as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Confirmation that the business had not received any relief or discount under the relief schemes; and
- Confirmation of Subsidy Allowance compliance.

The report advised that Bolton's funding allocation amounted to £5,697,827 and currently 217 applications had been received, which covered a 2021/2022 total rates liability of £2,725,177.70. Given that the current demand did not exceed funding provided Bolton's scheme would allow 100% relief against occupied 2021/2022 charged amounts where the business had demonstrated it met the eligibility criteria. If the full award would result in the Subsidy Allowance being exceeded then award would be to the value of the amount where the subsidy limit was reached.

In conclusion, members were informed that the CARF award would be credited to the 2021/2022 business rates account and should this result in an overpayment for 2021/2022 the credit would be used to offset any earlier arrears. Any credit that then remained would be refunded. It was also stated that the scheme would remain open for any further applications if funds remained.

Resolved – That the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) Scheme, as detailed in the report, be approved.