

Minutes of the **Cabinet**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held virtually by Microsoft Teams
on 29 May 2020 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

Councillor P North (Chairman)

**Councillor N Adams-King
(Vice-Chairman)**

Councillor P Bundy
Councillor D Drew
Councillor M Flood

Councillor I Jeffrey
Councillor A Johnston
Councillor T Tasker

Also in attendance

Councillor I Andersen
Councillor Z Brooks
Councillor T Burley

Councillor J Burnage
Councillor S Cross
Councillor C Dowden

41 **Public Participation**

No members of the public registered to speak.

42 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

43 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

44 **Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund**

Consideration was given to the report of the Finance Portfolio Holder which sought approval for a new delegated authority to the Head of Revenues for the development of a new discretionary grant funding scheme to be implemented by the Council.

Local authorities would be required to administer a discretionary grant fund targeted at small businesses with high property-related costs but which fell outside the eligibility criteria for the existing business grant schemes as part of the national measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

That authority be given to the Head of Revenues, in consultation with the Leader, Finance Portfolio Holder, Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Head of Finance, to formulate, implement and if necessary amend a local policy for administration of the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund.

45

Car Parking

Consideration was given to the report of the Planning Portfolio Holder which considered proposals for the Council's pay and display car parks in response to the gradual relaxation of lockdown arrangements related to Covid-19.

The suspension of car parking charges were introduced as a response to lockdown measures. These lockdown measures were now being eased and the latest government guidance indicated that some shops in town centres would be able to open for trading again with effect from 15 June.

It was recommended that for a transition period of one month, an element of free parking be retained to support visitors returning to the town centre as shops begin to reopen.

The Planning Portfolio Holder proposed an alteration to the recommendation to reflect the updated government position regarding the date on which the easing of lockdown measures for shops would commence. The meeting consented to this alteration without discussion.

Having considered the options and for the reasons set out in the report, Cabinet agreed to the following:

Resolved:

- 1. That the Council's pay and display tariffs are reinstated with effect from 22 June 2020 (or 7 days after such other date as the Government prescribes that non-essential retail may commence) and**
- 2. Except that, for a period of one month from the date established in recommendation 1, the tariff charge for up to two hours continues to be waived in all of the Council's pay and display car parks.**

(The meeting terminated at 5.49 pm)