

## Cabinet

26 January 2021

### Public Questions (2 total)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Question from Mr Dave Philips to the Cabinet Member Finance and Assets, Councillor Steve Jordan</b>
	<p><a href="#">Additional Restrictions - Discretionary Business Grants</a> (Approved by CBC Cabinet 17 November 2020)</p> <p>Why are CBC refusing to recognise those sole traders who trade under the restrictions of a Peddler's Certificate and are insisting that they will only help / support those who are in possession of a Street Traders Licence issued by CBC? A Peddler's Certificate is a legitimate trading vehicle that is Government issued. I am a Cheltenham Businessman but it seems that CBC are refusing to recognise that.</p>
	<b>Response from Cabinet Member</b>
	<p>Cheltenham Borough Council has put huge effort into understanding the rules set by government nationally for business grants and in paying them out to local businesses quickly with minimum of bureaucracy. From the outset of this pandemic, it was one of the first in the country to begin paying grants and has continued to do so through the ever-changing circumstances.</p> <p>In order to try and target support at businesses most impacted, the council has consulted with the MP's office, GFirst LEP, Cheltenham BID and other local Councils.</p> <p>The Additional Restrictions Grant funding is over and above the national schemes and is to support local businesses, although the government has issued guidelines on how this should be allocated and it is expected to last until March 2022.</p> <p>The Additional Restrictions Grant policy in respect of the November lockdown was for businesses with fixed property costs in respect of business premises in Cheltenham. It included market and street traders that have a license from the Council for a regular stall or pitch in Cheltenham. Regular was defined in the policy as 5 days per week. Pedlars licenses were not included as they are not granted by this Council ;the license expressly prohibits the licensee from remaining in a static pitch and the license is not just valid in Cheltenham</p> <p>We recognise that nationally there are said to be 3 million people, particularly sole traders and freelancers, who have received no government support so far. I believe that the government needs to urgently address this issue and we will continue to lobby government about providing help for this group. Councils are only able to use their funding for business support to help with business costs. We cannot pay wage support, which is what is needed.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Question from Mr Dave Philips to the Cabinet Member Finance and Assets, Councillor Steve Jordan</b>
	<p><a href="#">Additional Restrictions - Discretionary Business Grants</a> (Approved by CBC</p>

	<p>Cabinet 17 November 2020)</p> <p>My home address is Cheltenham. I pay Council Tax to CBC, my business insurance and house insurance each quote my Cheltenham address and my 3 Vehicles, two of which are used for my business are all insured and stored at my Cheltenham home.I also have two trailers that are business assets, but those are stored at Uckington on premises that are under the auspices of Tewkesbury Borough Council. These trailers have no engines so cannot be moved without the use of the vehicles at my home. Because this small part of my business is (stored only!) in TBC, Cheltenham officers are insisting that my business is not Cheltenham at all, but Tewkesbury. How can this be the case? I would really like an explanation as to how this assumption has been made.</p>
	<p><b>Response from Cabinet Member</b></p>
	<p>As previously stated, the Additional Restrictions Grant policy was for businesses with fixed property costs in respect of business premises in Cheltenham. Your home is a domestic property, not business premises. You do not have business premises in Cheltenham which is a requirement of the policy. You provided a receipt for outside storage of two trailers at a site in Uckington. It is possible for storage to be treated as business premises but the premises are not in Cheltenham's area.</p> <p>The principle that grants are paid by the authority where the business premises is situated is consistent with other business grant schemes. If the business premises in Uckington was rateable, Tewkesbury Borough Council would be responsible for paying a business grant regardless of where you live.</p>