

EDDC Councillors Report 2020/2021

The 20/21 year has as you would expect, been dominated by Covid. This has meant that there have not been any face-to-face meetings since March 20. All meetings have been via Zoom with all meetings being relayed live via the EDDC Youtube link.

The majority of the functions of the council have continued, albeit in an amended form. There has been no appreciable difference to the refuse and recycling service, street scene has maintained street cleaning, litter collection and toilet operation. Planning meetings were initially postponed but once the zoom meetings with multiple members and public plus appropriate application presentation was mastered, these were restarted and now operate efficiently.

The major increase in workload was in the revenue and benefits section that had to administer all the business rate grants and rebates as well as the additional business interruption grants, hardship grants, food parcels to mention just a few. The range of grant schemes and different qualifying criteria meant that while many grants were allocated virtually automatically, there were a great many that had to be analysed individually. Officers undertook the basic assessment but a new committee was set up, the Emergency Business Interruption Grants board to adjudicate allocation. There will inevitably be businesses and individuals that did not qualify but in the overwhelming number of cases I feel that EDDC efforts with the available government schemes, helped secure many jobs and businesses. The revenue and benefits teams supported by the economic development teams have done an amazing job in distributing grants.

As at 23 March 2021

Grant name /period	Approved	Total paid
National restrictions LRSG (C) Addendum 16 February - 31 March 2021	1,402	3,414,834
National restrictions LRSG (C) Addendum & CBLP 5 January -15 February 2021	1,704	11,450,890
Tier 2/Tier 3 Local Restrictions - 2 December to 4 January 2021		
LRSG (O)	644	1,193,862
LRSG (C)	393	143,417
Christmas support payment –Wet Led pubs	62	62,000
Additional Restrictions Grant - January restrictions	303	1,329,579
National restrictions – 5 November to 1 December 2020 LRSG (C) Addendum	1,614	2,421,206
Additional Restrictions Grant - November restrictions	137	134,950
Scheme 1 - Small Business Rate Relief Grant (Spring 2020)	2,759	27,590,000
Scheme 2A & 2B Retail Hospitality & Leisure Grant (Spring 2020)	926	15,365,000
Discretionary (Summer 2020)	299	2,310,000
Total	8,841	62,000,904

In May of 2020 a new administration took over leadership of the council. Whilst there have been various issues made more complicated by the Covid restrictions the basic operation of the council has continued.

Following on from the previous administration there is an increased input to green and environmental issues which will be costed into council expenditure.

Geoff Pook