

APPENDIX A: Summary of Options for delivery of top-up ARG to support businesses in North Northamptonshire

Options	Details
Distribution of final committed grants for legacy and NNC Discretionary Grants	Take up for both legacy and North Northamptonshire Council Discretionary Grants has been high. Funding from the 'top-up' will be set aside to cover the cost of payments from previous schemes and support any remaining successful applicants awaiting payments from previous schemes, who have met these requirements and are entitled to a payment as set out in the grant criteria of the grant scheme to which they applied, should costs exceed the previous ARG allocation of £10.057m which was previously available to the Council.
A new Recovery and Innovation Grant	Building on the discretionary Hardship scheme for local businesses, a new grant programme will be introduced to focus on facilitating recovery through diversification, innovation and growth . Applicants will request funding towards the implementation of growth plans to support and sustain recovery. This will include encouraging diversification and growth projects which reduce emissions, or other harmful environmental impacts, and support a transition to net-zero. The minimum target grant value will start from £10,000, but with scope to fund smaller projects later in the programme, dependent on available budget.
A new sector Hardship Support grant	Following from the discretionary Restart scheme, this ' hardship ' grant will narrow its focus to specific sectors who continue to be severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic . These sectors include: events, hospitality and travel. This will be a one-off set grant dependent on business size. Previous applicants will be able to apply for this grant if they continue to be severely impacted. It is proposed that this element of the top-up programme will be fast-tracked.
Local Business Support	This involves a focus on maintaining existing activities and 'top-up' and targeted business support . Activity would include continued support of the Council's Business and Jobs Hub at Rushden Lakes, maintaining existing Council capacity to deliver ARG (including the extension of related temporary/fixed term roles) and related recovery and support activity (including the existing Recovery through Enterprise website and social media programmes to promote the wider offer and provide 'signposting'), promoting the sectors impacted by the pandemic including local visitor attractions, and enhanced recovery support delivered through the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) Growth Hub.