



Additional Restrictions Grant (Re-start) Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Government has imposed restrictions on the operation of certain businesses as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In February 2021, the Government announced a “roadmap” to lifting these restrictions gradually over the period from March 2021 to June 2021. To enable businesses to re-open safely, on 3 March 2021, Government announced the introduction of grant support for non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses in England.
- 1.2 These Restart Grants are one-off grant funding in the 2021/22 financial year. The Restart Grants (RG) and will be administered by business rate billing authorities in England and apply to those businesses that have a business rate assessment. The primary principle of the RG scheme is to support businesses that offer in-person services to reopen their business.
- 1.3 For those businesses that are not eligible for the Government’s Restart Grant the Council will administer a discretionary scheme.
- 1.4 This Policy is therefore specifically intended to address those businesses that are not eligible for a grant payment under the RG scheme, as they do not meet the qualifying criteria.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 The discretionary grant funding is for those businesses that were trading on 1 April 2021.
- 2.2 Applications will be considered from the following types of businesses:
 - Regular Market Traders
 - Bed and Breakfast establishments which pay council tax instead of business rates

- Charity properties who do not have their own business rate assessment
- Taxi drivers
- Tenant Publicans (where the public house owner pays business rates and is therefore eligible for a business grant – but the tenant landlord is responsible for other business related costs)
- Businesses that supply goods or services to the retail, hospitality, leisure and events sector who do not have their own business rate assessment
- Travel companies or transport providers
- Small businesses in shared office or other flexible workplaces who do not have their own business rate assessment
- Those working from home who are not eligible for the self-employed income support (SEISS), or coronavirus job retention scheme (CJRS) and have high fixed business costs such as rent, lease, hire purchase costs or franchise payments.
- Mobile self-employed persons in receipt of SEISS, such as hairdresser and taxi drivers who have identifiable fixed costs whether related to property, vehicle or business
- Businesses within the events sector, who have a business rate assessment but are not eligible for a Restart Grant.

3. Exclusions

3.1 The following businesses are not eligible for the discretionary grant funding payments:

- Businesses that do not depend on providing direct in-person service from premises and can operate their services effectively remotely; such as accountants and solicitors
- Businesses that have chosen to remain closed
- Businesses which have already received grant payments that equal the maximum subsidy levels as set out in the Trade and Corporate Agreement with the European Union
- Businesses that are in administration, are insolvent or where a striking off notice has been made
- Business which were not trading on 1 April 2021
- Businesses that have continued to trade on line during recent restrictions; and continue to do so from 1 April 2021
- Businesses that are eligible for the Restart Grant
- Directors who receive dividends

4. Application Process

4.1 For those businesses who have previously received a payment from the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) applicable from 5 November 2020 to 31 March 2021, no application will be required. Emails will be sent to these businesses asking that they

confirm that their details remain the same, and that their business is still actively trading.

- 4.2 For those businesses that have not previously applied for an ARG, new applications, along with supporting documentation will be accepted electronically through the Council website
- 4.3 An 'application window' will be given in which the council will accept applications. All application windows will be communicated through various media platforms including the Councils Business Matters newsletter

5. Grant Allocations

5.1 Where possible grant allocations will be in-line with the grant payments made under Strand One of the RG. However, due to the limited funding available to the Council a financial modelling process will be undertaken on all eligible grant applications once the application window has closed. Grant levels may need to be reduced so that the total cost of all grants awarded is within the funding provided by the Government.

5.2 The funding provided to businesses within the RG is as follows:

a) Strand I:

- i. Businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on 1 April 2021 will receive a payment of **£2,667**;
- ii. Businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 1 April 2021 will receive a payment of **£4,000**;
- iii. Businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over on 1 April 2021 will receive a payment of **£6,000**.

5.3 The financial impact of Covid-19 restrictions on businesses will determine the level of ARG grant payable as follows:

- i. Businesses whose annual property or other fixed costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, council tax, equipment lease, insurance) is exactly £15,000 or below will receive **£2,667**;
- ii. Businesses whose annual property or other fixed costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, council tax, equipment lease, insurance) is between £15,001 to £50,999 will receive a payment of **£4,000**;
- iii. Businesses whose annual property or other fixed costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, council tax, equipment lease, insurance) is exactly £51,000 or above will receive a payment of **£6,000**;

- 5.4 Grants will be issued as one-off payments and final grant levels will be dependent upon demand and the final number of businesses eligible.
- 5.5 Successful grant payments will be made electronically to the business bank account provided at the time of application.
- 5.6 Any funding remaining will be applied in 2021/22 to support economic recovery from Covid-19 or to fund those grant payments made to businesses under the Government Covid-19 Business Grants Schemes, where the value of grants awarded exceeds the Government funding provided.

6. Appeals

- 6.1 The Council will not be required to provide a right of appeal against any decision not to award a grant payment under this policy. Businesses will not be eligible if they do not meet the criteria.

7 Fraud

- 7.1 The Council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud. Any business caught falsifying their records to gain a discretionary grant payment may face prosecution. The Council will seek recovery of any grant paid as a result of fraud or payments made in error.