



wychavon town centres **Business Support Grant**



What is the Business Support Grant?

The aim of the scheme is to support and attract new retailers into Wychavon's town centres in Droitwich Spa, Evesham, Pershore or Broadway and to encourage the occupation of vacant retail premises. The scheme will help regenerate the town center's retail status and improve the range and quality of the retail offer for both local residents and those visiting Wychavon's towns.

A total package of grant funding and business advice worth more than £1,100 is available comprising a grant of £750 which you may either use to offset business rates or spend on business start up costs, and the option of one day's specialist retail advice from the Rural Shops Alliance, please see the details enclosed.

Who can apply?

- The grant is available to retail, hospitality and commercial businesses that are moving into premises in Droitwich Spa, Evesham, and Pershore town centres, or Broadway village centre.
- To be eligible for grant support you must have a current business plan approved by a Business Link adviser.
- An eligible property includes retail and commercial premises, but excludes banks, building societies and private residences.
- To receive a grant you must be working full-time (36 hours or more a week) in your business.
- The Council reserves the right to recover all or part of the £750 grant it has provided for if:
 - your business relocates outside the boundaries of the Wychavon District within a 78 week period from receipt of the grant.
 - your business ceases to trade for whatever reason.
- You must have all the necessary permissions and licenses to operate your business.
- You must have a clear Council Tax payment record to be eligible for a grant award.
- You must have a business bank account into which your grant can be paid.
- Your application includes a consent giving Wychavon District Council access to all of the material submitted to Business Link.

- Award of a grant does not imply that the council is expressing a view about your business or its products nor that it accepts responsibility for any debts, or liabilities incurred by you, or your business.

How much can we apply for?

You can apply for a grant of £750 to offset against the business rates payable for the property as assessed by Wychavon Revenues section. Or, the grant may be used for business start up expenditure.

How do we apply?

Please complete the application form. To obtain one either ring Jane Dobson on 01386 565278 or email jane.dobson@wychavon.gov.uk. It is also available on the Council's website at www.wychavon.gov.uk. Please note though that when an application is submitted it needs to be printed out and signed and sent in with your business plan.

What happens then?

When we receive your application, we will assess it to ensure that your application is eligible, your proposals meet the aims of the scheme and enhance the quality of the retail offer in the town center. We will make an appointment for you to discuss your business plan with a Business Link advisor. If you would like specialist retail advice we will pass your contact details to the Rural Shops Alliance to make an appointment with you. Your completed application will then be considered by the Economic Development Officer at Wychavon District Council who will decide to make one of three decisions:

- Offer a grant.
- Request further information from you.
- Reject the application.

When is the grant available?

The grant is available now and the scheme is anticipated to run for this financial year, 2009/2010.

Payment of the grant

The grant will be paid into your business rates account within 14 days of receipt of a signed copy of the offer of grant letter by WDC, or into your business bank account via BACS.