

Wychavon District Council Discretionary Grants Scheme

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – Round 1

Introduction

1. As a part of the England wide lockdown (5 November 2020 – 2 December 2020) the Government has provided councils with funding to support local businesses. In Wychavon district there are two grants that the council will be administering. These are:
 - Local Restrictions Support grant (LRS) – aimed at businesses with a rateable value who have been forced to close because of the lockdown. Eligible businesses may be entitled to a cash grant of up to £3,000 from the council for each 28-day period under national restrictions. The application process for this is available at www.wychavon.gov.uk/business/covid-19-information-for-businesses on the Wychavon District Council website.
 - Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – for businesses that have been forced to close but are unable to access the LRS because they don't have a separate business rates account, or who haven't been forced to close, but are still severely impacted by the national coronavirus restrictions.
2. This document sets out which businesses are entitled to apply for the discretionary ARG and the process for applications. The link to the application form can be found at the bottom of this document.
3. The deadline for applications to for this funding round is **12 noon on 20 December 2020.**

Council approach

4. The Government guidance issued in November 2020 gives the council discretion over the grant scheme, and its decisions regarding the scheme will be final.
5. The funding allocated to the council by the Government can be used for a range of business support measures up to April 2022. It therefore requires management in terms of allocation to ensure funding is available for future business support in

the long-term. Funding has been set aside in tranches to allow delivery of support in a phased manner.

6. The council has received £2.6m in relation to the discretionary scheme and will allocate £1.3m for the first round of the ARG scheme. This initial funding round will focus on providing grants of up to £3,000 (in line with the LRSG limits) per business.

Which types of business will be prioritised for the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)?

7. This first round of funding will only be available to businesses trading on the 4 November 2020 and not eligible for the LRSG. Businesses must meet these criteria and will be prioritised based on the following:
 - The importance of the business to the economy as an employer. This will include those who are self-employed.
 - Businesses that have been forced to close or can demonstrate a significant reduction in revenue due to lockdown restrictions on trade from 4 November.
8. The following types of businesses may qualify for an Additional Restrictions Grant:
 - Businesses with a rateable value involved in the supply chain to businesses within the retail, hospitality or leisure sectors that have been forced to close by government.
 - Businesses without a rateable value involved in the supply chain to businesses within the retail, hospitality or leisure sectors that have been forced to close by government.
 - Businesses without a rateable value within the retail, hospitality or leisure sectors that have been forced to close by government.
9. Companies that are in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made before the 4 November 2020 are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

Evidence Required

10. Businesses must demonstrate they meet the eligibility criteria above for their application to be considered. To do this, you will need to provide:
 - Evidence to demonstrate a substantial loss in income as a result of the period of national coronavirus restrictions running from 5 November to 2 December 2020.

- Evidence the business was operating on 4 November 2020
- Evidence the business, or its main supply chain, was forced to close by government
- Confirmation of State Aid compliance

State aid

11. There is a requirement for all grants made under this scheme to be state aid compliant.

[Please read further government guidance on State Aid compliance \(section 58 – 62\)](#)

Grant Amounts and how payments will be made

12. It is expected that most grant awards made will be similar to those made under the LRSG scheme which allows for payments of **up to** £3,000.

13. In order for the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme to benefit the maximum number of eligible small businesses, it is proposed to award grants which will be directly proportionate to the impact on income due to the Covid crisis.

14. Applications for the grant can be made online at www.wychavon.gov.uk/business/covid-19-information-for-businesses and before payments are made eligibility checks will be carried out.

15. Payments will be made directly to the bank accounts of approved recipients by BACS.

16. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on 20 December 2020.

Other information

17. Grant income received by a business is taxable therefore funding paid under the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme will be subject to tax. Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

18. The Government and the council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud. Any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

19. The council does not accept any liability for any issues that may arise for businesses because of applying for, receiving, or not receiving grant payments under this scheme.

20. Enquiries about the scheme should be emailed to business.support@wychavon.gov.uk