

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT

Introduction

1. This guidance is intended to support Babergh and Mid Suffolk based businesses applying to Babergh District Council or Mid Suffolk District Council for a grant from the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Fund announced by the Government on 31st October 2020.

2. This guidance sets out the criteria under which businesses will qualify to make an application to the ARG, and the evidence required to support an application, this is aligned with the Government guidance issued on 4th November 2020.

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/932623/V.1. Additional Restrictions Grant - FINAL LA guidance 03112020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/932623/V.1_Additional_Restrictions_Grant_-_FINAL_LA_guidance_03112020.pdf))

3. National and local restrictions are legally binding restrictions imposed where the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requires the closure of businesses under regulations made using powers in Part 2A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 in response to the threat posed by coronavirus and commonly as part of a wider set of measures.

4. Local Authorities will receive a one-off lump sum payment amounting to £20 per head in each eligible Local Authority when LCAL 3 or widespread national restrictions are imposed.

Scope and approach of scheme

5. The Government guidance issued on 4th November 2020 gives the Council discretion over the grant scheme, and its decisions regarding the scheme will be final.

6.. Businesses with hereditaments subject to business rates that have been instructed to close should apply for the Local Restriction Support Grant;

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/business/business-rates/grant-funding-schemes/> Awards will be made in line with government guidance.

7. Under the guidance issued to the Council by the Government, it was determined that the businesses to be prioritised for access to the Additional Restriction Grant are:

- Non- Business Rate paying businesses that are required to close
- Other businesses not required to close but severely affected by a local restriction
- local businesses, who require support in addition to the funding provided to those businesses via the LRSG (Closed) scheme, with due reference to State Aid

8. To ensure eligible businesses have opportunity to apply for the scheme, the Council are administering an application-based approach to the grants scheme to assess the eligibility and evidence as set out in this guidance.

9. The Council reserves the right to vary the terms of the scheme at any time, and without notice, should it be necessary to do so.

Eligibility

10. To be eligible to apply for a grant under this scheme, a business must

- Have been trading up to and including 4th November 2020
- Have been instructed to close, or have been significantly financially impacted by the National Coronavirus restriction measures
- Be trading from within either Babergh or Mid Suffolk

11. Businesses who have accessed previous Coronavirus grant support schemes may be eligible to apply for this scheme.

Exclusion

12. Businesses which have already received grant payments that equal the maximum levels of State aid permitted under the de minimis and the Covid-19 Temporary State Aid Framework

13. Companies that are in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made at the date of the local lockdown are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

14. Businesses that were not trading on the 4th November 2020

Evidence Required for all

15. For the application to be considered, we require businesses to provide the clear evidence demonstrating that they meet the eligibility criteria above:

- A brief statement of the impact of this National Lockdown on the business to include detail of significant financial impact
- Copy of current business insurance certificates
- Copy of bank account statement for the business less than three months old
- Comparable evidence of business turnover for the period 1st Sept -30th Nov 2019 and for the period 1st Sept – 30th Nov 2020
- Confirmation of State Aid compliance

If you are unable to provide satisfactory evidence your application will not be considered.

State aid

16. There is a requirement for all grants made under this scheme to be state aid compliant, please see the further guidance on this at this link – [State Aid Guidance](#)

Application process

17. The Council has access to limited funds from Government for this scheme, which are also required to support any future national lockdowns or Local level restrictions.

18. To ensure that there are funds available for future requirements, the funding to support this program will be split into phases, with up to 40% of the total funding allocated to this initial phase, ending 10 working days after cessation of current national restrictions.

19. Future phasing will be reviewed in line with implementation of future national and local restrictions, evolving guidance from government, business need and developing recovery programs.

20. Grants will be awarded based on the following

Business type	Grant amount per 28 day period of a national closure
Business with a rateable value of £15,000 or under	£1334
Business with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000	£2000
Business with a rateable value in excess of £51,000	£3000
Businesses without a rateable value	Up to £3000 depending on scale of financial impact

21. The above table shows the level of grant for successful applications.

22. Generally only one award will be made per business irrespective of multiple sites or premises, however the authority reserves the right to consider multiple application in exceptional circumstances

22. In the event of extension of the current National lockdown, successful applicants from phase 1 will be contacted by email to establish eligibility for further funding.

23. This is a limited fund, meeting the criteria will not guarantee payment under this grant.

24. If the fund is oversubscribed with the applications received, the Council reserves the right to amend the grant levels, based on the applications received and approved.

25. Evidence to support the application will need to be uploaded as part of the application process. The evidence will be in accordance with section 15.

26. Applications for the grant must be made online and payments will be made directly to approved recipients' bank accounts by electronic transfer.

27. The timeline for the grant scheme

- Applications open – when National Lockdowns or Tier 3 restrictions are applied by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

- Application to Phase 1 of program closes 10 working days following cessation of current National Lockdown
- Program closes – March 2022 or sooner if fund is fully subscribed.
- We anticipate that payments will be made no later than 21 days after successful application

Other information

28. Grant income received by a business is taxable therefore funding paid under the Local Restriction Discretionary Grants Fund will be subject to tax. Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

29. The Government and the Council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and 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.

30. 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.

Decision making Process

31. No grant will be paid without an application being made.

32. Grant decisions will be made by panel

33. There is no appeal process

34. Enquiries about the scheme can be emailed to discretionarybusinessgrant@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk