

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

April 10, 2020

More than £4.7million in grants already paid to Fenland businesses

More than £4.7million worth of Government business grants has already been paid out by Fenland District Council to help support businesses through the coronavirus pandemic.

As of Thursday, April 9, the Council has paid grants to 440 businesses – consisting of 420 grants of £10,000 and 20 grants of £25,000. The latest payments are scheduled to be received in businesses' bank accounts next week after the Easter bank holidays.

Approximately 1,850 businesses are expected to benefit from the grants in Fenland, with staff working hard to ensure all those that are eligible receive a grant.

All Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund forms submitted by businesses are subject to thorough eligibility checks.

Further communication with businesses may be necessary if any of the required information is missing. It can then take up to 10 working days for grants to be received, but it is usually much quicker than this.

Businesses are being urged not to contact the Council to ask about the status of payments to enable staff to process them as quickly as possible.

Leader of Fenland District Council, Councillor Chris Boden, said: "Our businesses are the backbone of our economy but they have been hit hard by this crisis. We are doing everything we can to make it quick and easy for businesses to access this vital money which will help them to meet their ongoing costs until the pandemic is over.

"I am delighted we have been able to get this many grants paid out to businesses in just over a week since the schemes were launched. I can also assure businesses that this will remain a top priority for us until they are all paid."

There are three grant schemes being administered by the Council:

- Scheme 1 – Small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business receiving small business rate relief or rural rate relief, with a rateable value of £15,000 or less; or
- Scheme 2 – Grant funding of £10,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value of £15,000 or below; or
- Scheme 3 – Grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,001 and £51,000

Letters and emails have been sent to businesses which may be eligible for grant funding. Any businesses which have not been contacted, but think they are eligible for a grant, can download the necessary documentation from the Council's website at:

www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessgrants

Any businesses needing help or advice in completing their declarations can contact the Council on 01354 654321 or email: covid19.businessgrants@fenland.gov.uk

Advice, plus answers to Frequently Asked Questions, is also available on the Council's website at: www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice

ENDS

For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226