

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2020

Fenland District Council pays out more than £2.6million to businesses

As of today, Fenland District Council will have paid out over £2.6million worth of Government grants to help small businesses through the coronavirus crisis.

The first grant payments, of £10,000 each, were received in businesses' bank accounts this morning, with a total of 261 local businesses scheduled to receive a £10,000 grant in their bank accounts by Thursday morning this week. Payment of the first of the £25,000 grants will start next week.

The Council is administering the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund from the Government's support packages to help local businesses meet ongoing costs during the pandemic.

Staff are working hard to ensure more than £21million worth of funding is distributed to Fenland businesses as soon as possible, with approximately 1,850 eligible businesses expected to benefit.

Fenland District Council Leader, Councillor Chris Boden, said: "Our businesses are vital to Fenland's economy and to the many thousands of local people they employ, so it is essential they are provided with support to ensure their survival through this crisis.

"I'm delighted we have been able to make these first grant payments so quickly. Administering these schemes and getting payments out to those who need them remains the highest priority for the Council's finance team.

"The suspension of business rates for retailers and our hospitality and leisure companies will also offer much-needed support in these challenging times."

Steve Barclay MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and MP for North East Cambridgeshire, added: "Over the past few weeks, I have been working closely with the Chancellor to introduce a package of measures designed to reduce the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the business community. During this national challenge, it is crucial that businesses are able to access support and guidance where needed.

"I am pleased that businesses in Fenland are utilising the support made available to them by the Government. These schemes help Fenland businesses during this difficult time and enable them to continue contributing to the economy and providing jobs for our local area. I want to thank Fenland District Council for their role in administering the distribution of this vital support for hundreds of local businesses."

The funding being administered by the Council includes:

- 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
- Grant funding of £10,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value of £15,000 or below; or
- 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. Businesses are asked to complete a Business Declaration Form and confirm payment details to ensure grants can be paid.

Businesses which do not receive a letter or email in the next couple of days, 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. Advice is also available on the Council's website at: www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice

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