

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

November 27, 2020

Council launches Additional Restrictions Grants to help more Fenland businesses

Applications are now open for Fenland District Council's discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – to support businesses that are not eligible for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSRG).

The Council will begin distributing £2million of Government funding through its ARG scheme to help local businesses that have been legally forced to close or been severely impacted by the national lockdown restrictions.

Eligible businesses will receive a one-off payment of £1,000 to cover the restrictions period, which came into force for a period of 28 days from November 5. An additional £800 can be applied for where a business can demonstrate high levels of fixed costs or significant reduced sales, revenue and/or income because of the lockdown.

The first round of the ARG scheme launched today (November 27), and the deadline for applications for this initial funding round is 9am on Monday, December 14.

Councillor Chris Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, said: "We understand how tough this second lockdown has been on businesses and, in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme that we launched last week, this discretionary funding will hopefully go some way to helping even more of our local businesses who may not be able to access other financial support."

The Council will make the initial ARG funding available to the following business types:

- Businesses and organisations with premises that do not have a rateable value and are required to close by law because of the national lockdown measures (e.g. those operating in shared spaces or spaces where they pay rent but are not the ratepayer).
- Businesses and organisations with premises that do not have a rateable value which have not been required to close themselves but have been impacted by the national restrictions, for example businesses that form part of the supply chain to others that have been forced to close. These businesses will need to demonstrate a direct impact of the restrictions in terms of reduced sales, revenue and/or income because of the lockdown.
- Businesses and organisations with premises that do have a rateable value which have not been required to close themselves, but have been impacted by the national restrictions, for example, businesses that form part of the supply chain to others that have been forced to close. These businesses will need to demonstrate a direct impact of the restrictions in terms of reduced sales, revenue and/or income because of the lockdown.

The ARG funding allocated to the Council by the Government can be used for a range of business support measures up to March 2022. It therefore requires management in terms of allocation to ensure funding is available for future business support in the long-term. Further funding rounds and their accompanying eligibility criteria will be publicised via the Council's website.

Cllr Boden added: "I would urge businesses across Fenland to check the criteria for both our ARG and LRSG schemes and, if they think they are eligible, complete the online form for the appropriate grant scheme as soon as possible."

- For more information on the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme, visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/ARG
- For more information on the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme, visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/LRBSG

Since the Council's LRSG scheme launched last week, a total of 292 grants have been paid to date, amounting to £416,504.

The Council has previously administered three other Government business grant schemes – the Small Business Grant, the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Local Authority Discretionary Grant, delivering almost £20million of grant funding to over 1,800 local businesses.

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