

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

18 January 2021

New grant schemes now open to help Covid-hit businesses

More grant schemes to help local businesses survive the latest coronavirus restrictions have been launched by Fenland District Council.

The Council has opened three grant schemes for applications – and is urging businesses to check the eligibility criteria to ensure they don't miss the chance to claim funding. Visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/businessgrants.

The grants are for businesses affected by the Tier 2 restrictions from 2 December to 25 December 2020 and the Tier 4 restrictions and national lockdown since 26 December 2020. There is also a specific grant to support pubs and bars that predominantly served alcohol rather than food through festive period.

The grant schemes now open for applications in Fenland are:

- Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment – a one-off grant payment of either £4,000, £6,000 or £9,000 depending on rateable value is available to businesses forced to close in line with the national restrictions which came into place on 5 January 2021. This grant is available in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSB).
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) – hospitality, accommodation and leisure businesses which suffered a reduction in trade due to the Tier 2 restrictions are eligible to obtain the LRSB (Open) grant. This grant will be paid on a 14-day cycle in line with whatever period Fenland remained in Tier 2.
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) – the LRSB (Closed) grant is available to businesses in these sectors which are required to remain closed, i.e. due to the requirement to only serve alcohol alongside a substantial meal.
- 'Wet-led' Pub Grants (Open) – a one-off grant of £1,000 for pubs and bars impacted over the Christmas period due to local restrictions.

The second round of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is also due to launch on or before 22 January 2021. This is support for businesses not eligible for the LRSB which have been affected by either Tier 2 restrictions or the national lockdown in November.

Cllr Chris Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, said: "The coronavirus pandemic continues to take a huge toll on our local economy and businesses, but we hope that these grants will go some way to helping those in need.

"Since the start of the outbreak in March, we have distributed more than £20.9million in funding, making nearly 2,500 payments to businesses, and our teams continue to work hard to get even more funding out as quickly as possible.

“I would encourage any businesses which may be entitled to a grant to check the criteria and apply if they are eligible. Anyone who is not eligible for an LRSG may be able to get a share of the Additional Restrictions Grant, so please keep checking our website for details.”

Any businesses requiring help or advice regarding any of the grant schemes can contact the Council on 01354 654321 or email: covid19.businessgrants@fenland.gov.uk

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