

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

4 February 2021

### **Businesses reminded to apply for Covid grants**

Fenland businesses which have been impacted by local and national Covid-19 restrictions are being reminded to check if they're eligible for grant support.

Fenland District Council is administering a range of Government business grant schemes via its website at: [www.fenland.gov.uk/businessgrants](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/businessgrants) – and is urging businesses to apply before the closing dates.

Since the first lockdown last year, the Council has distributed more than £24million in funding and made over 2,500 payments to businesses, with over £3million being paid out to businesses since the December restrictions came into force.

Grants are currently available for businesses affected by the Tier 2 restrictions from 2 December to 25 December 2020, the Tier 4 restrictions from 26 December to 4 January and the current ongoing national lockdown.

The grant schemes 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 force on 5 January 2021. This grant is available in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG) and businesses can claim this at the same time as applying for other grants which they are eligible for.
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) – hospitality, accommodation and leisure businesses registered for business rates which suffered a reduction in trade due to Tier 2 restrictions are eligible to obtain the LRSG (Open) grant. This grant is currently available for the period from 2 December to 25 December when Fenland was in Tier 2.
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) – the LRSG (Closed) grant is available to businesses registered for business rates which were required by law to remain closed during the period when Fenland was in Tier 2. For example, pubs which were unable to re-open on 2 December 2020 due to the requirement to serve substantial meals alongside any alcohol purchased.
- Supplementary Winter Lockdown Grant (part of the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant) – available to all businesses which are not eligible for the Closed Business Lockdown Payment or the Local Restrictions Support Grants. Detailed eligibility criteria can be found at [www.fenland.gov.uk/SWLG](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/SWLG). Businesses which are not registered for business rates are able to obtain this grant if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- Christmas Support Payment for 'Wet-led' Pubs – a one-off grant of £1,000 for pubs and bars which generate less than 50% of their income from the sale of food. The deadline to apply for this grant was originally 31 January 2021 but this was recently extended by Government until 28 February 2021.

The application closing date for the Supplementary Winter Lockdown Grant is 15 February 2021, and the closing date for Local Restrictions Support Grants and the Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment is 31 March 2021.

Cllr Chris Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, said: "There is a range of support out there and I encourage Fenland businesses to check the criteria online to ensure they don't miss out on the chance to claim funding. Our grants team is here to help any businesses in need of advice and guidance so please do get in touch if you are struggling to navigate your way through all the grant schemes available."

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](mailto:covid19.businessgrants@fenland.gov.uk)

**ENDS**

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