

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

12 March 2021

New support grant for self-employed businesses launches in Fenland

Fenland District Council has launched a new grant scheme to help even more businesses struggling to pay ongoing costs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Council has specifically developed the Self-Employment Support Grant to help self-employed businesses which have not been able to access other Covid grant schemes.

One-off grants of £1,400 are now available to individuals and businesses which were not eligible for the Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and have not received either the national Local Restrictions Support Grant or the Council's previous discretionary scheme – the Supplementary Winter Lockdown Grant.

To qualify, businesses must have either been forced to close, or remained open but been financially impacted by the current lockdown which commenced on 5 January or the previous lockdown in November.

Businesses can check if they're eligible and apply at: www.fenland.gov.uk/SESG The closing date for applications is Monday, 22 March.

Cllr Chris Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, said: "We have listened to the needs of the business community and are pleased to launch this new grant. Whilst previous mandatory Government-led schemes and discretionary grants have provided much-needed support, we recognise that there are other businesses which have not been able to access these and are in desperate need for help.

"These grants, in addition to the £27.8 million we have already paid out since the start of the pandemic, will help support many more businesses across the district and is another step forward in the safeguarding of our local economy.

"We will continue to listen to the needs of businesses as we take tentative steps out of lockdown and bring more schemes forward to ensure those who need our help get it."

The new self-employed grants are being funded through the Council's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) allocation, which is available to support businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed through to 31 March 2022. Grants totaling over £1.1million have already been paid out through ARG, including the first round in November last year and the subsequent Supplementary Winter Lockdown Grant.

- Any businesses with queries relating to the Self-Employed Support Grant can email the Council's grants team on selfemploymentgrants@fenland.gov.uk or call 01354 654321.

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