

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

26 January 2022

New grants launch to support Fenland businesses affected by Omicron

Fenland businesses impacted by the Omicron variant can now apply for the latest COVID-19 government grant schemes.

Fenland District Council has opened applications for two new schemes aimed at supporting businesses hit hard by reduced trade and cancellations due to the spread of Omicron.

The first scheme is the mandatory Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) and the second is the discretionary Omicron Relief Grant.

Full eligibility criteria for both schemes, and online application forms, are now available on the Council's website at www.fenland.gov.uk/businessgrants

Cllr Chris Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "We know that the Omicron variant has massively impacted businesses, particularly through the Christmas season which is usually their busiest time of year, so this latest government funding to support them through this difficult period is welcome news.

"As with previous grant schemes, we have made the application process as quick and easy as possible and will be working hard to distribute the funding as soon as possible. So, if you run a local business, don't delay in checking the eligibility criteria on our website and get your applications submitted before the deadlines."

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

Businesses in the hospitality, leisure, and accommodation sectors will be able to apply for one-off OHLG grants of between £2,667 and £6,000, depending on the rateable value of their premises. To qualify, businesses must have been trading and registered for business rates in Fenland as of 30 December 2021. Applications must be received before 28 February 2022. Successful businesses can expect to receive their grant within ten working days.

Omicron Relief Grant

The Omicron Relief Grant is available to any business that does not qualify for the OHLG and whose revenues have been significantly affected by the Omicron variant. All qualifying businesses will receive an initial grant of £1,000, with the potential for a further £1,667 (maximum total grant of £2,667), depending on if surplus funding is available. Applications must be received before 28 February. Successful businesses can expect to receive their grant within ten working days.

- Any businesses with questions relating to the COVID-19 grant schemes can contact the Council's Finance team on 01354 654321 or email: covid19.businessgrants@fenland.gov.uk
- Anyone needing general advice relating to their business can contact the Council's Fenland for Business team on 01354 622506 or email: business@fenland.gov.uk

ENDS

Press Office

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