



# **Malvern Hills District Council Discretionary Grants Scheme**

## **Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)**

### **Introduction**

1. As a part of the England wide lockdowns and Tier 2 and 3 Restrictions the Government has provided councils with funding to support local businesses affected by additional restrictions.
2. In Malvern Hills district there are a number of grants that the council is administering including the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) for businesses that have been forced to close but are unable to access the LRSB because they don't have a business rates account or who haven't been forced to close but are still severely impacted by the national coronavirus restrictions. .
3. This document sets out which businesses are entitled to apply for the discretionary ARG grant and the process for applications.

### **Council approach**

3. The funding allocated to the council by the Government can be used for a range of business support measures up to April 2022. This requires allocation to make sure funding is available for future business support in the long-term. Funding will be used in tranches to allow delivery of support in a phased manner.
4. Businesses that have already successfully applied for the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme will receive automatic payment for January onwards whilst we remain in lockdown and therefore do not need to reapply.
5. The Government guidance issued in November 2020 gives the council discretion over the grant scheme and its decisions regarding the scheme will be final.

### **Which types of business will be prioritised in the Discretionary Grants Fund?**

6. Funding will only be available to businesses trading on the 4 November 2020 and who either have had to close in the lockdown; OR who haven't had to close, but have been affected badly, regardless of whether they have a business rates account or not.
7. Applications will be prioritised on the following criteria:
  - Businesses who have either been forced to close or whose trading has been severely affected, with a subsequent reduction in income. E.g. hospitality and leisure
  - Businesses with large, fixed costs who have been unable to offset these either through grants received or through furlough payments.
  - Businesses who employ a significant number of employees.
  - Businesses that contribute towards the social fabric of their communities, who if they were
8. Companies that are in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made before the 4 November 2020 are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

### **Evidence Required**

9. Businesses must demonstrate they meet the eligibility criteria above or their application will not be considered. To do this, you will need to provide:
  - Evidence to demonstrate a substantial loss in income as a result of the lockdown period
  - Evidence that the business was operating on 4 November 2020
  - Evidence that the business, or its main supply chain, was mandated (forced) to close
  - Confirmation of State Aid compliance

### **State aid**

10. There is a requirement for all grants made under this scheme to be state aid compliant.

[Read the further government guidance on State Aid compliance \(section 58 to 62\).](#)

### **Grant Amounts and how payments will be made**

11. It is expected that most grant awards made will be similar to those made under the LRSG scheme.

12. In order for the ARG to benefit the maximum number of eligible small businesses, grants awarded will be proportionate to the impact on the income of a business as a result of national coronavirus restrictions.
13. Applications for the grant can be made online at [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/covid-19-information-for-businesses](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/covid-19-information-for-businesses). Before payments are made eligibility, checks will be carried out.
14. Payments will be made by BACS directly to the bank accounts of approved recipients.

### **Other information**

15. Grant income received by a business is taxable therefore ARGs paid as part of the council's discretionary funding will be subject to tax. Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.
16. The Government and the council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.
17. The council does not accept any liability for any issues that may arise for businesses because of applying for, receiving, or not receiving grant payments under this scheme.
18. Enquiries about the scheme should be emailed to [ecodev@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@malvern hills.gov.uk)