

East Cambridgeshire District Council Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme Round 4

A fourth round of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme has been launched to support more business sectors who up until now, have not been eligible for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) or the Restart Grant.

The grant is to support businesses impacted by the COVID restrictions from 16th February 2021 –12th April 2021.

The ARG is a discretionary funding scheme for local authorities to support businesses in their local economies during periods of lockdown relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible businesses

This grant scheme is for businesses with fixed business costs who experienced a significant loss of income (over 30%) directly related to/as a result of the National Lockdown restrictions in place from 16th February – 12th April 2021.2021 and are either:

- A business that does not have a business rates account which was been legally required to close during the National Lockdown period from 16th February –12th April 2021.
- A customer facing business (with or without a business rates account), **whose primary activity is provision of in-person services for the sale of goods/services to the public on a face to face basis**, that was allowed to be open during the National Lockdown restriction period, but was severely impacted by reductions in footfall or by the wider changes in behaviour of customers as a result of the restrictions put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 from 16th February –12th April 2021.

In order to be eligible for a grant under this scheme, businesses must;

- (For businesses with fixed premises) be operating from premises located within East Cambridgeshire or (for mobile businesses), be based at a home address within East Cambridgeshire and operate within the district.
- Have experienced a significant loss of income (over 30%) directly related to/as a result of the National Lockdown restrictions in place between 16th February –12th April 2021.
- Be able to demonstrate that they have had ongoing fixed business costs, for example, rent or other costs that they have had to meet during the period 16th February –12th April 2021.
- Businesses that have not been legally required to close, must have been open and providing services to customers during the lockdown period from 16th February –12th April 2021.

Open Businesses

Customer facing businesses, with or without a business rates account, whose primary activity is provision of in-person services for the sale of goods/services to the public on a face to face basis, who have remained open and can demonstrate their business has been severely impacted financially (over 30% loss of income) by the restrictions put in place from 16th February –12th April 2021 to control the spread of COVID-19.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate one or more of the following:

- They are operating in an affected sector (e.g. retail) but able to stay open as an essential business.
- The public are required to enter the business premises to purchase goods/services.
- They are able to demonstrate that trade has dropped due to an inability to deliver consumer services (that cannot be delivered online) to customers due to social distancing requirements and/or restrictions on movement.
- They supply/trade with businesses that were required to close from 16th February –12th April 2021.
- Their supplier/s were legally required to close from 16th February –12th April 2021.
- Businesses in the events sector who can demonstrate that they have lost income due to not being able to attend events due to be held between 16th February –12th April 2021.

Businesses will be required to provide evidence of their fixed property costs, business related costs and loss of income.

Ineligible businesses

The Council recognises that a much wider range of businesses is allowed to be open during Lockdown restrictions (for example, manufacturing, construction, professional services and so on) but these businesses are not eligible for grant support under this scheme.

This is because their main business is not reliant on offering in-person services to customers that are heavily impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions in force.

Which businesses are not included in the scheme?

- Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to will not be eligible for this grant. This includes business premises which were already closed directly before the restrictions were imposed.
- Businesses that are able to continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate their services effectively remotely.
- Financial Services (e.g. bank), Medical Services (e.g. vets, dentist), Professional Services (e.g. solicitor), Estate & Letting Agents and Post Office sorting offices are not eligible for grants.
- Businesses whose primary function is not to provide goods/services to members of the public within their premises (e.g. office and manufacturing businesses).
- Businesses that have not been able to demonstrate a significant loss of income (at least 30%) due to Covid-19.
- Land/premises used for storage or for personal use.
- Empty premises.
- Businesses that have exceeded the permitted Subsidy Allowance.
- Companies that are in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made.
- Businesses and individuals eligible to receive grants under the Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed businesses) scheme or the Restart Grant scheme cannot claim under this scheme.

Applications are restricted to one application per person per premises.

Applicants/businesses who have received a grant under the Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed businesses) scheme or the Restart Grant scheme for a different business cannot claim under this scheme.

Managing the risk of fraud

The Council will not accept deliberate manipulation or fraud - and any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money may face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error. All information is subject to internal and external audit checks.

Sharing Information

East Cambridgeshire District Council will share data for efficient system administration and to protect the Public Purse, subject to the GDPR. This will include sharing data with Anglia Revenues Partnership, Central Government and other Local Authorities. Grant recipients may be contacted for research purposes, and their data will be shared with BEIS for research and evaluation purposes.

By applying for an Additional Restrictions Grant all applicants give authority to East Cambridgeshire District Council to share data for efficient system administration and to protect the Public Purse, subject to the GDPR. This will include sharing data with Anglia Revenues Partnership, Central Government and other Local Authorities. Grant recipients may be contacted for research purposes, and their data will be shared with BEIS for research and evaluation purposes.

Grant income

Grant income received by a business is taxable, therefore funding paid under the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme will be subject to tax. Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

Evidence required to support your claim

You will need certain information to hand when completing the application form. Please ensure that you have prepared your supporting documentation prior to starting the application process, to prevent being timed out.

- Information regarding the nature of your business such as number of employees
- Business in commercial properties will need their business rates account number
- Business in domestic properties will need a copy of their council tax bill
- Companies House registration number (where applicable)
- VAT registration number (where applicable)
- If not a company and not VAT registered, a document from HMRC showing your Unique Taxpayer Registration number
- Date and amount of any grant funding or reliefs received from a public body over the last three years (for Subsidy Allowance / State Aid declaration)
- Business bank account details such as account number and sort code
- Copies of full (not partial) bank statements from 16th February to 12th April 2021
- A letter from your accountant stating what percentage of business income you have lost from 16th February to 12th April 2021 compared to those dates in 2020.
- To evidence a loss of income, full (not partial) bank statements from 16th February to 12th April 2020
- Details of your regular fixed business costs, e.g. rent, mortgage, insurance etc. with copies of invoices. These must be in the business name and not be domestic costs.

Grant Allocation Details

<p>Closed Businesses</p> <p>A business that does not have a business rates account which has been legally required to close during the National Lockdown period from 16th February – 12th April 2021.</p> <p>You can find a detailed list of the businesses that are required to close on GOV.UK by clicking this link.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business operating from a commercial property - £4,500• Business operating from a domestic property - £3,000• Community facilities (village hall, church hall, meeting room, scout/guide hut etc) - £3,000
<p>Open Businesses</p> <p>A customer facing business (with or without a business rates account), whose primary activity is provision of in-person services for the sale of goods/services to the public on a face to face basis, that was allowed to be open during the National Lockdown period, but was severely impacted by reductions in footfall or by the wider changes in behaviour of customers as a result of the restrictions put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 between 16th February – 12th April 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £2,500

These grants will be paid as one-off grants to cover the period from 16th February – 12th April 2021.

After the closing date, if funds remain, the Council will review the scheme and open a further application round.