

East Cambridgeshire District Council Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme **Round 5**

In response to the 4-week pause at Step 3 of the roadmap, Government has made the changes to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) guidance to increase flexibility around both business eligibility, and the operation and delivery of the ARG scheme.

The purpose of the ARG funding scheme remains the same, with the aims of supporting businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions when most needed. The scheme remains discretionary. Local Authorities continue to have the freedom to determine the eligibility criteria for these grants.

The guidance has been updated to say that Local Authorities are encouraged to support businesses from all sectors that may have been severely impacted by the continued restrictions, including those eligible for the Restart Grant scheme. The scheme will remain discretionary, and Local Authorities should continue to issue grants at their discretion, based on local economic needs.

On 3 March 2021, the Government announced that a further £425 million would be made available for Local Authorities, through a conditional top-up to the Additional Restrictions Grant. To receive the second top-up of ARG, Local Authorities have until 30 July 2021 to meet all necessary conditions and prove that they have spent or made a validated attempt to spend 100% of their first two ARG allocations combined.

However, if the Council can demonstrate 100% spend by 8 July 2021, it will receive the top-up funding by 30 July 2021, enabling much needed grant funding to reach local businesses sooner.

East Cambridgeshire's ARG top-up allocation is £707,466.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has received ARG funds totalling £2,594,853. To date, £2,115,500 (82%) has been paid or allocated to local business, leaving £479,353 remaining.

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The remaining ARG funding will be used to provide additional grant support for those businesses impacted by the 4-week pause at Step 3 of the roadmap.

In order to enable the Council to spend 100% of the first two ARG allocations and receive the top-up funding as soon as possible, grants will be paid out first to those eligible businesses that have received a Restart Grant.

Grants will be allocated by the date that a business's Restart Grant application was received by the Council. Independent businesses will be prioritised over national businesses and community facilities. When the existing funds are exhausted, any outstanding grant payments will be made when the Council receives its ARG top-up funding.

Payments to other eligible businesses will also be made after the top-up funding is received.

Eligible businesses

To be eligible for an ARG Round 5 grant, businesses must be in the following business sectors:

- Hospitality
- Leisure
- Accommodation
- Gym and sports
- Personal care
- Travel and tourism, including group travel, travel agents and tour operators
- Wedding industries
- Nightclubs
- Theatres
- Events industries
- Wholesalers supplying eligible businesses
- English language schools
- Breweries

Businesses must also:

- Be based in England and operate in East Cambridgeshire.
- Have a business rates account.
- Have been trading on 14th June 2021. For the purposes of this grant scheme, a business is considered to be trading if it is engaged in business activity. This should be interpreted as carrying on a trade or profession, or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover.

Businesses excluded from the fund:

- Businesses that have already received grant payments that equal the maximum permitted levels of subsidy will not be eligible to receive funding.
- Businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made, are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

A further ARG funding round will be launched for businesses outside the business rates system, when the Council receives its top-up funding from the Government.

How to apply

The Council will automatically pay this grant to eligible businesses who have previously successfully applied for the Restart Grant.

Businesses whose details have changed, or business circumstances have changed (for example, the business has permanently closed, has gone into administration, become insolvent or had a striking-off notice, or the business has reached Subsidy

Allowance limits), should email details to covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk or telephone 01353 665555

Businesses that did not receive the Restart Grant should email their business name, business address and business rates account number to covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk or telephone 01353 665555 to request an application form.

How much funding will be provided to businesses?

This is a one-off grant.

- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on 1 April 2021 will receive a payment of £1,334.
- Businesses with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 1 April 2021 will receive a payment of £2,000.
- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over on 1 April 2021 will receive a payment of £3,000.

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.