

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: 30 MARCH 2021
title: BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS UPDATE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update regarding the various Business Support Grants awarded since the introduction of the local restrictions due to the Covid pandemic in September last year
- 1.2 To consider the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme and how to utilise the remaining funding available.
- 1.3 To also inform members of the new Restart Grants which will replace the Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG) from 1 April 2021.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In Ribble Valley the following local restrictions have applied since 22 September 2020.

	from	to	
Tier 2	22/09/2020	16/10/2020	restrictions on restaurants - no mixing and no bar drinks
Tier 3	17/10/2020	04/11/2020	pubs and bars had to close unless they served a substantial meal
National Lockdown	05/11/2020	02/12/2020	national lockdown all non-essential retail to close also
Tier 3	02/12/2020	30/12/2020	hospitality, accommodation, indoor entertainment all closed but leisure and sports facilities may stay open
Tier 4	31/12/2020	04/01/2021	non essential retail, personal care and leisure also had to close
National Lockdown	05/01/2021	31/03/2021	national lockdown all non-essential retail to close also

2.2 The Government have announced 10 different grant schemes throughout this period

- Local Restrictions Grant (Open)
- Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) pre 5 November 2020
- Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 November - 2 December 2020
- Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) 2 December - 30 December 2020
- Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) Tier 4 31 December - 4 January 2021
- Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs
- Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 January - 31 March 2021
- Closed Business Lockdown Payment
- Local Restrictions Grant - Sectors
- Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG)

- 2.3 The Local Restrictions Support Grants (Closed), Christmas Support Payment for Wet led pubs, and Closed Business Lockdown Payments are all set schemes with the eligibility criteria set by the Government.
- 2.4 For the Local Restrictions Support Grants (Open) scheme local authorities have the discretion to determine the precise eligibility criteria. However, Government expect the funding to be targeted at hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses.
- 2.5 Full details regarding all grant schemes are available on our website at https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/info/200427/coronavirus_covid-19/1744/business_advice_and_support

3 GRANTS PAID TO DATE

- 3.1 Annex 1 shows the LRSG paid to the 28/2/21. You will see that we are yet to receive funding from some of the grants from BEIS whilst others are somewhat lower than the advance we have received. It is not clear exactly how the allocations have been calculated though BEIS have said that they are linked to the Scat codes used by the Valuation Office Agency when determining business rate hereditaments.

4 CLOSURE OF SCHEMES

- 4.1 The Government have announced that the LRSG schemes will all close on 31 March 21 with the following exceptions:
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) for the period 16 February 2021 – 31 March 2021 will close on 31 May 2021
 - Closed Business Lockdown Payment will close on 30 April 2021.

5 RESTART GRANTS

- 5.1 The Government have now issued guidance regarding the new Restart Grants which will replace the Local Restrictions Support Grants from 1 April 2021.
- 5.2 We expect the restart grants will be for businesses which have been legally required to close during the lockdown period and are registered for business rates (though there is some uncertainty regarding this)
- 5.3 Grant payments will be as follows:
- Non-essential retail businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, will receive a one-off grant of £2,667.
 - Non-essential retail businesses with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, will receive a one-off grant of £4,000.
 - Non-essential retail businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, will receive a one-off grant of £6,000.
 - Qualifying Hospitality and Leisure properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, will receive a one-off grant of £8,000.
 - Qualifying Hospitality and Leisure properties with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, will receive a one-off grant of £12,000.
 - Qualifying Hospitality and Leisure properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, will receive a one-off grant of £18,000

6 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT SCHEME

6.1 The Government recognised that some businesses that are required to close may not have rateable commercial premises (and therefore won't be eligible for the LRSG schemes), and others won't have been forced to close, but they will be severely impacted due to Local and/or National Lockdown restrictions. As such Local Authorities were allocated Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) to design a scheme to support such businesses.

6.2 By way of sector of business, the Government stated this could include:

- businesses which supply the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors
- businesses in the tourism and events sectors

6.3 We have been awarded £1.217m via a first tranche plus £541k via a second tranche of ARG funding, giving a total allocation of £1.759m.

6.4 It was agreed that our ARG scheme should support the following:

- to meet any shortfall on the LRSG (open) scheme which is cash limited;
- to support businesses legally required to close under Tier 4 and/or the National Lockdown who are not on the rating system;
- Businesses in the events sectors.
- to support businesses where the majority of their trade is supporting or supplying to the Hospitality, Leisure and Accommodation and non-essential retail sectors who have been severely impacted since Ribble Valley entered National Lockdown.

6.5 It was decided that the amounts paid would mirror the amounts set by the Government for the LRSG (Open) and LRSG (Closed) grants. These are shown in Annex 2.

6.6 It was also decided that instead of having application windows (as with our Discretionary Grants scheme that ran from May – August last year), the ARG scheme should remain open with different qualifying periods dependant on the restrictions Ribble Valley was in at that time, whilst funding was still available.

6.7 There are 4 qualifying periods for our ARG scheme.

- Period 1 Grants - 44 days in total from 22 September 2020 to 4 November ie the Period that Ribble Valley was in the Tier 2 followed by the Tier 3 Local restrictions.
- Period 2 Grants - 28 days from 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020 ie the Period of National Lockdown restrictions.
- Period 3 Grants - from 2 December 2020 until 4 January 2021
- Period 4 Grants - from 5 January onwards

ARG paid to date

	Total Grants Nos.	Total £ Grants Paid	Funding Received from BEIS
Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG)	213	751,948	1,758,631

- 6.8 The Government originally stated that the ARG funding could be spent upto 31 March 2022. However they have recently announced, whilst this remains the case, additional funding will be provided by way of top-ups to local authorities who have spent their original allocation by the end of June 2021.
- 6.9 The Budget Working Group are due to meet on 22 March 2021 to consider options for our remaining ARG funding. Any recommendations from the BWG will be reported verbally to your meeting.
- 7 RECOMMENDED THAT
- 7.1 Members note the progress made with the allocation of LRSG grants and consider next steps with regard to our ARG scheme.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF23-21/JP/AC
22 MARCH 2021

LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANTS PAID TO 28/2/21

ANNEX 1

Local Restrictions Support Grants	<15k	£	15k-51k	£	>51k	£	Total Grants Nos.	Total £ Grants Paid	Funding Received from BEIS
Local Restrictions Grant - Sectors							2	3,930	
Local Restrictions Grant (Open)							295	568,460	594,562
Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) pre 5 November	28	23,244	16	21,355	0	0	44	44,599	95,375
Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 November - 2 December	508	677,672	86	172,000	41	123,000	635	972,672	1,245,438
Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) 2 December - 30 December	172	237,704	54	111,834	36	111,852	262	461,390	736,192
Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) Tier 4 31 December - 4 January	511	121,618	86	30,702	42	22,512	639	174,832	
Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs							36	36,000	51,200
Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 January - 31 March	511	2,083,087	86	525,155	42	386,988	639	2,995,230	1,868,157
Closed Business Lockdown Payment	511	2,044,000	86	516,000	42	378,000	639	2,938,000	3,735,000
							1913	8,195,113	8,325,924

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANTS - AMOUNT OF GRANTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

ANNEX 2

Amount of Grant Calculated as Due:

Rateable Value/equivalent	Period 1		Period 2		Period 3							
	28 Days 22 September 2020 to 19 October 2020	16 Days 20 October 2020 to 4 November 2020	not required to close 28 Days 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020	legally required to close 28 Days 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020	Closed Period 2 to 15 December	Open Period 2 to 15 December	Closed Period 16 to 29 December	Open Period 16 to 29 December	Closed Period 30 Dec (1 Day)	Open Period 30 Dec (1 Day)	Tier 4 - Closed Period 31 Dec to 4 January (5 Days)	Tier 4 - Open Period 31 Dec to 4 January (5 Days)
					4736	4737	4736	4737	4736	4737	4736	4737
No RV and low fixed costs	N/A	N/A	£500	£500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£89	N/A
<= £15,000	£934	£534	£934	£1,334	£667	£467	£667	£467	£48	£33	£238	£167
> £15,000 <= £51,000	£1,400	£800	£1,400	£2,000	£1,000	£700	£1,000	£700	£71	£50	£357	£250
>= £51,000	£2,100	£1,200	£2,100	£3,000	£1,500	£1,050	£1,500	£1,050	£107	£75	£535	£375

Rateable Value/equivalent	Period 4a		Period 4b	
	not required to close 42 Days 5 January to 15 February 2021	legally required to close 42 Days 5 January to 15 February 2021	not required to close 44 Days 16 February to 31 March 2021	legally required to close 44 Days 16 February to 31 March 2021
No RV and low fixed costs	£750	£750	£750	£750
<= £15,000	£1,401	£2,001	£1,468	£2,096
> £15,000 <= £51,000	£2,100	£3,000	£2,200	£3,143
>= £51,000	£3,150	£4,500	£3,300	£4,714