

Coronavirus grant funding - payments to small and medium businesses

The government has provided a range of financial support packages throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to be paid out to local businesses.

The council, as the local business rates billing authority, has received the funding from the government and distributed it to support small and medium businesses in the Borough.

The eligibility criteria for the grants have largely been determined by the government and the council has been fully reimbursed for all the funding distributed.

Open schemes

Government Scheme	Features	Allocation
Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant	This scheme provides support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses, in recognition that the rise of the Omicron variant means that some businesses are likely to struggle. The support will take the form of a one-off grant funding scheme. The scheme is administered by the council and will need to run an application process for the grant.	3,366,072
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)	On 21 December 2021, the Government announced that additional funding would be made available, through a top-up to the Additional Restrictions Grant, for businesses severely impacted by current restrictions.	714,765

Closed schemes

Government Scheme	Details	Paid
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF) and Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) (closed August 2020)	In response to the pandemic in March 2020, the government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. This support took the form of two grant funding schemes in financial year 2020-2021, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. The amount of the award was predetermined based on business rate relief or rateable value.	64,510,000
Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund (LADGF) (closed August 2020)	This is support for small business that are not eligible for SBGF or RHLGF. Authorities have discretion over the businesses to support and the amount of the award.	3,420,750
The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	These schemes provided grants payable to all eligible business affected by national restrictions and were required to close. Eligibility criteria and amount of the award is determined by BEIS.	29,438,561
Local Restrictions Support Grant (open)	Support for businesses that were not legally required to close but were severely impacted by restrictions. Authorities had a funding allocation and some discretion over the eligibility criteria, to determine which businesses to support and the amount of the award.	1,361,354

Christmas Support Payment (CSP) for wet led pubs	Additional support over the 2020-21 festive period for wet-led pubs in areas under Tier 2 or 3 restrictions.	149,000
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)	The ARG funding scheme aims to support businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions. Local authorities receive funding when regional tier 3 or widespread national restrictions are imposed. Local authorities can use this funding for direct business support grants. Funding was originally made available to eligible Local Authorities at the point the Local Authority first entered Tier 3 restrictions in October 2020.	11,332,420
Restart Grant	This support was announced as part of the Budget on 3 March 2021. Under the Restart Grant scheme, Local Authorities will receive funding to be allocated in one-off grants to businesses. The scheme is administered by business rate billing authorities in England.	19,268,109
Total		133,561,031