

Discretionary Business Grant Allocation Policy

In response to the Coronavirus, COVID-19, the government announced support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, delivered through the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Fund. On May 1st, 2020 the government announced a further additional discretionary fund aimed at small businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund.

This discretionary grant scheme widens access to support to businesses who are struggling to survive due to the Corona virus shutdown and are unable to access any other grant funding under the COVID 19 support measures. In administering the discretionary scheme local authorities are asked to exercise local knowledge and discretion to meet the economic need in their area by setting out the priority business types that will be supported and clear criteria for determining the appropriate level of grant.

The discretionary fund is limited and therefore requires local authorities to prioritise which types of businesses will receive funding, it is the local authority's discretion as to which types of business are most relevant to their local economy.

The types of business that Fylde will prioritise, in order, for grants under the discretionary scheme include:

1. Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces e.g. industrial parks, science parks, incubators etc. which do not have their own business rates assessment;
2. Short term holiday lets / B&B's that pay domestic council tax instead of business rates;
3. Locally based charity properties receiving charitable business rate relief that would otherwise be eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief;
4. Regular market traders who do not have their own business rates assessment with fixed building costs

Other small businesses eligible for the grant under the criteria set out by the government are invited to apply, priority will be given to the types of business identified above. The eligibility criteria is outlined in the [Local Discretionary Fund Guidance](#) and included on the application page for the grant.

Any awards made under the discretionary business grants scheme at Fylde will be capped at £10,000 and only one payment per business. The objective is to provide financial support to as many eligible local businesses as possible.

Awards made under the £10,000 limit will be determined using the following rationale, based on evidence provide by the applicant, to assess the significance of the financial impact from the COVID 19 crisis:

- The amount of fixed premise and other fixed business-related costs the applicant is required to pay during the COVID 19 lockdown measures. Rent free, rent relief, or mortgage relief granted by landlords or financial institutions will be taken into consideration.
- The impact of the COVID 19 lockdown measures on income to the business, considering whether the business has been able to continue any trading (including online) and if so to what level in comparison to pre COVID 19 income.

- Any impact on the ability to trade as a result of a relaxation in the COVID 19 social distancing measures. This could include assessments based on phased re-opening of premises at the time of determining the application.
- Any other financial support (loans, grants or donations) that has been secured by an eligible applicant will be considered along with the financial capacity of the business i.e. the level of reserves.
- The volume of any shared space occupied by the applicant and the costs attributed to that space.

Evidence will be required to properly assess the level of financial impact that the COVID 19 crisis has had on the applicant and any award under the £10,000 limit will be accompanied by an explanation of the factors taken into consideration in reaching the amount awarded.

There is no right of appeal against any decisions made not to award grants or the amount of grant awarded.

Examples (It is not possible to cover the multitude of circumstances)

Company 1

Ongoing fixed costs per month £8,000 (No rent-free period)

Loss of income from COVID 19 measures £6,000 per month (only trading online)

Face to face trading cannot operate until at least July 2020 then with social distancing measures

Business was operational on March 11th, 2020.

Award: £10,000 based on significant ongoing fixed costs and reduction of income.

Company 2

Rent free period by landlord until able to trade, other fixed business costs £1500 per month.

Unable to trade at all during COVID 19 measures – no income.

All employees furloughed – employee not topping up 20%.

Return to trading will be phased to adhere with social distancing measures.

Award: £5000 based on a contribution to remaining fixed costs