

NON-CONFIDENTIAL
BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH



CABINET

Date 19th January 2021

Thursday, 21st January, 2021, 6.00 pm in Online Meeting

SUPPLEMENT – ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Further to the Agenda and Papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following further information, which was not available when the agenda was issued:

Agenda No. Item

8. **Local Restrictions Grant Policy** (Pages 3 - 26)
(Report of the Portfolio Holders for Assets and Finance and for Heritage and Regeneration)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

Chief Executive

To Councillors: D Cook, R Pritchard, J Chesworth, M Cook, S Doyle and J Oates.

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21 January 2021

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS FOR ASSETS & FINANCE &
HERITAGE & REGENERATION****Local Restrictions Grant Policy****Exempt Information**

None

Purpose

To seek Cabinet approval for the Local Restrictions Grant Policy and to obtain delegated authority to amend this policy to reflect any future changes in guidance.

Recommendations

1. That the policy be endorsed and adopted.
2. That the policy be reviewed at a minimum on a quarterly basis, with delegated authority to the Executive Director Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Assets & Finance & Heritage & Regeneration to make any changes, including the remaining ARG funds for the development of Localised Business Support.
3. That members note the progress made to date in respect of the various grants schemes.

Executive Summary

In the response to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and following the initial grants package to businesses arising from the lockdown required in March 2020, Government have now provided a further package of support grants for businesses that have been severely impacted by or required to close as part of the introduction of the Tier restrictions and indeed the subsequent national lockdown. These Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSGs) are targeted at businesses registered for Business Rates, with grant payments up to £3k per 4-week period. They are to be administered by Local Authorities following Government guidance.

On 31st October Staffordshire entered into the Tier 2 (very high risk) level as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently the country went into another National Lockdown on 5 November 2020 as a result of rising case numbers in the area. As part of the agreement with government Tamworth received a business support package of Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) of £942k for properties registered for Business Rates and circa £1.534million for wider distribution, known as the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). The ARG is a discretionary fund that Tamworth can use to create a package of support for businesses that are unable to access governments LRSGs either as they are not registered for Business Rates or not within one of the business sectors that are able to access the grants.

This report outlines the progress made on delivering governments LRSGs and how the ARG discretionary fund is being used to complement those grants and support wider businesses in Tamworth. It also seeks endorsement of the Council's proposed use of the discretionary fund.

Options Considered

Cabinet are asked to endorse the implementation of the Local Restrictions Grants policy which includes the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant fund scheme. There are potentially other options that the Council could consider. However, it is felt that the proposed approach outlined has the best fit to maximise support for a large number of businesses.

Resource Implications

The table shows a timeline of Government support to date

Timeline of Central Government interventions:			
Grant Types	Date Paid	Amount Retained	To pay out / add'l relief
Business Support			
Business Grants Scheme £12m	01/04/2020		£12,020,000
Business Grants Scheme - add'l allocation	15/06/2020		£2,239,000
New Burdens - Grants Schemes	07/07/2020	£130,000	
Extended Business Rates Retail relief S31 grant	Monthly		£16,220,510
Additional BR Relief Payments for Expanded Retail and Nurseries	20/11/2020		£987,801
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)	13/11/2020		£1,533,920
Local Restrictions Support Grant LRS (Closed) Addendum including LRS (Sector) and LRS (Closed) (90% of the estimated allocation)	13/11/2020		£942,246
Tier 2 grant allocation (LRS Open) for the period 31/10-4/11/20 (includes a 5% top up of c.£1,400)	13/11/2020		£29,318
New Burdens 2 - Grants Schemes	18/12/2020	£58,500	
LRS (Open) 2/12/20-19/12/20 (allocations for those LAs in both Tier 2: High alert and Tier 3: Very High alert.)	18/12/2020		£8,258
LRS (Closed) 02/12/20 - 19/12/20 (payment for those LAs in both Tier 2: High alert and Tier 3: Very High alert, which is 80% of the estimated grant funding based on our estimates of business closures. As per the guidance we will provide top-up funding to LAs if required.)	18/12/2020		£88,089
Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs (CSP) 80% of our estimated costs as per the guidance which also confirms once thresholds are met funding will be topped up	18/12/2020		£25,600
80% of our estimated costs as per the guidance which also confirms once thresholds are met funding will be topped up			
ARG Top up January 2020	15/01/2020		£681,295
Closed Business Lockdown payment January 2020	15/01/2020		£2,826,000
Closed Addendum payment	15/01/2020		£1,413,369
Residents			
£150 each Hardship funding for LCTRS claimants	03/04/2020		£565,718
Council tax hardship scheme New Burden Admin Cost Grant	22/12/2020	£9,832	
Self isolation payments scheme funding - Discretionary Scheme	30/10/2020		£19,375
Self isolation payments scheme funding - Main Scheme	30/10/2020		£32,000
Self isolation payments scheme funding - New Burdens	30/10/2020	£24,762	
Self isolation payments scheme funding - Discretionary Scheme	TBA		£11,625
Self isolation payments scheme funding - Main Scheme	TBA		£36,000
Total		2,233,094	39,680,124

For the initial Business Support Scheme (for the lockdown period commencing March 2020) the Council received funding of £14,259,000 with a new burdens allocation of £130,000. £12,047,500 was paid to a total of 1,190 businesses. The reconciliation is below.

Grants reconciled				
Total paid to Local Authority	Small Business Grant Fund/Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund	Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund	Total	Value to be returned to BEIS
£14,259,000	£11,590,000	£457,500	£12,047,500	£2,211,500

The Council's ARG allocation from Government totals £1,533,920 and is for use up to the end of March 2022. Through Member consultation it is proposed to allocate 80% of this fund to grants and the remaining 20% towards the development of localised business support, proposals are currently being developed.

As detailed above, the Council has also received funding to support residents through a one-off up to £150 for each Local Council Tax Reduction scheme claimant and through the one-off self isolation scheme payments of £500 for those required to self isolate as a result of Covid-19.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

Fraudulent applications - Ensure that banking details are independently verified and other checks are in place ahead of payments are being made.

Additional resource – This continues to be required to manage and administer the grants. The level of this additional support will be costed and recorded under the reporting for the New Burden grant funding in line with government instruction to Local Authorities for Covid-19.

Complaints from Businesses that applications are rejected - The proposed policy is attached at Appendix 1 and is based upon guidance from BEIS. There is no automatic right of appeal against a decision not to award a grant, or against the value of any grant. The only further recourse available to applicants is a challenge by way of a judicial review, and/or a complaint to The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

Equalities Implications

The ARG discretionary scheme will support some businesses that are run by people with protected characteristics that were previously prohibited from applying for Government's original business support grant scheme.

Sustainability Implications

The Council has received direct funding from Government for all of the prescribed grants outlined. The funds will be available until they have been fully allocated and spent, or until there is a Government amendment to the current terms.

Background Information

Since March 2020 Tamworth Borough Council has been responsible for administering grant schemes to support businesses in response to Coronavirus. From March until September 2020 these schemes were known as the: Small Business; Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Discretionary grant funds and the Council distributed £12.047m, to 1,090 businesses within Tamworth. These grant fund schemes were formally closed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) at the end of August 2020.

On 9 September 2020 the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that Government would provide businesses with additional grants in the event that they are asked to close as part of a local restriction. Local authorities are required to adopt policies to distribute grants to business, through periods of national and local restrictions.

In Staffordshire, Tier 2 restrictions were imposed from 31 October and superseded by national restrictions imposed from 5 November to the 2 December 2020, which required many businesses to close until 2 December. Following this announcement, further revisions of the grants guidance from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy were published. The guidance outlines the various means of funding that Councils are to administer to support businesses affected by the November/December 2020 national restrictions, but also future periods of national and local restrictions under a High or Very High Covid-19 threat level. A new tiered system was developed from 2 December onwards which will be reviewed on a 14 day rolling basis. Subsequently a further national lockdown has been announced covering the period 5 January 2021 to 15 February 2021.

In the period leading up to the end of December, the Council had been making preparations to design its Additional Restrictions Grant Fund, with an outline policy presented to Overview & Scrutiny ahead of approval planned for a Cabinet meeting. A scheme of delegation report was endorsed and the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme was launched on 14 December 2020. However, due to delays in the revised guidance on the intended scheme from BEIS, the decision was taken to defer the report to the January Cabinet meeting.

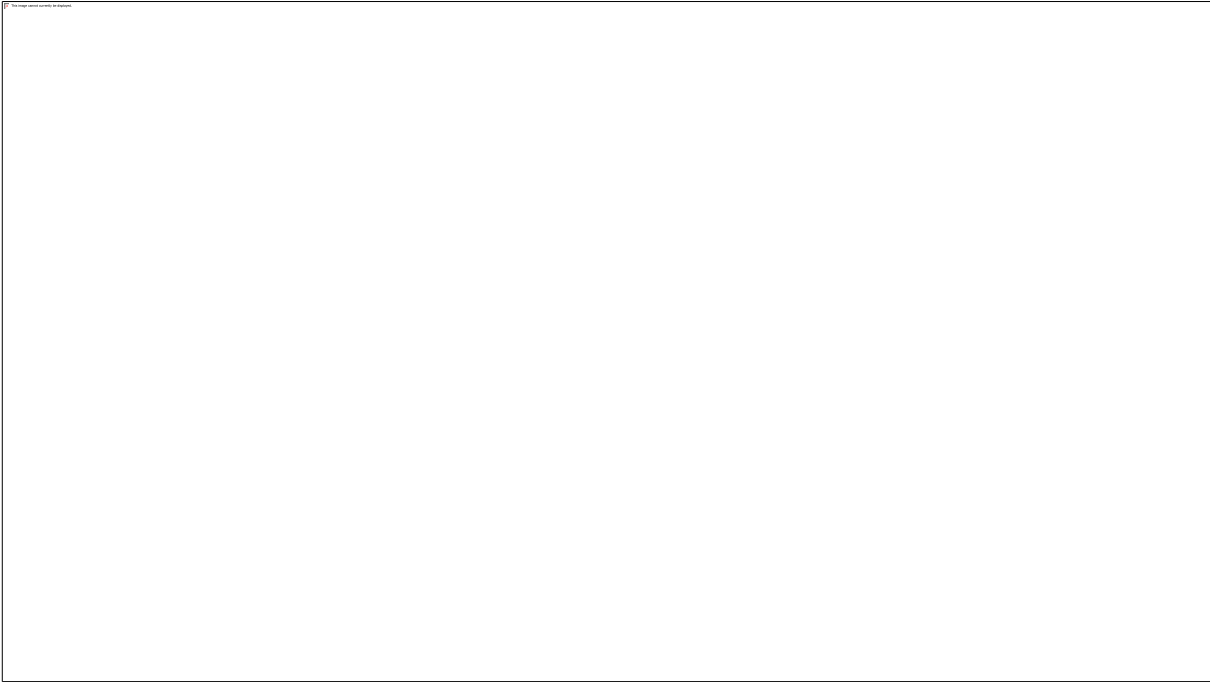
These various grants include discretionary grants (as set out in this report) as well as mandatory grants payable to businesses who occupy business premises.

Cabinet endorsement is now sought in respect of the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme that will support businesses through the current period of national restrictions and any future periods of national or local restrictions, where they are not funded via mandatory grants through the Business Rates system. Along with other support for businesses in rateable premises during periods of national or local Very High restrictions, these grants provide a system of business support grant schemes that work alongside to support those most affected by restrictions.

This Policy (as attached in appendix1) describes the manner in which this Council will distribute its funding to local businesses.

Summary of Grants

The table below outlines all the grants that have been in place for businesses affected by Covid-19 since March 2020.



Retail Leisure and Hospitality Grant (RHLG)

The Government announced in March that occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties liable for business rates would receive a 100% discount on their business rates in respect of the 2020/21 financial year irrespective of their rateable value. This is known as the Expanded Retail Discount.

Subsequently the Government announced that, in addition to the 100% discount, under the terms of the RHLG scheme business properties in receipt of the Expanded Retail Discount with a rateable value below £51,000 would be entitled to cash grants for each property (hereditament) as follows:

Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to £15,000 received a grant of £10,000 and with a rateable value of less than £51,000 received a grant of £25,000, subject to eligibility criteria.

Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over were not eligible for this grant.

Small Business Grant (SBGF)

Under the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) all businesses in England in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) and Rural Rate Relief (RRR) in the business rates system will be entitled to a payment of £10,000, subject to some detailed eligibility criteria.

Discretionary Grant

The discretionary fund provided vital financial support to businesses which did not meet the criteria of the RHLG & SBGF grant schemes for rate-paying businesses. This particular grant scheme was aimed at small and micro businesses with relatively high ongoing fixed property-related costs, which demonstrated that they have suffered a significant fall in income due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG1) (Closed Business Scheme)

This scheme covers from the 5th November 2020 and is aimed to support businesses mandated to close during the National Lockdown and Local Tier restrictions and will therefore be paid to:

- Businesses mandated to close which were trading on 4 November from commercial premises for which they are not the direct ratepayer (e.g. shared spaces or premises under a paramount control of another party)
- Market Traders who have, up to 5 November, traded regularly on either a Tuesday or Saturday on Tamworth Street market, who have not been allowed to trade, due to the nature of their business
- Businesses based from home that were unable to trade from 5 November, due to either their business activity being not allowed to trade

Businesses will receive a grant payment of £1,334.00 for each 28-day qualifying restrictions period.

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG2) (Severely Affected Scheme)

This scheme covers businesses who, whilst not mandated to close provide goods or 'business to business services' to a customer base that is mandated to close either as a result of a National Lockdown or Localised Restrictions (Tier system).

All businesses will receive a one off grant payment of £5,000. Recipients will not be allowed to access any further ARG grant until after April 1st 2022.

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG3) (Additional help for businesses in the Hospitality and Leisure Sector with a Rateable Value of £51,000 or above)

Business may be eligible for an additional grant if they meet the following criteria:

- The business is in the hospitality sector, leisure sector or be a hotel that is not part of a chain and the business has not previously received a £25,000 grant
- The business is liable for business rates and your rateable value is £51,000 or above

- The business has received a Localised Restrictions (Tier) and/or a National Lockdown Grant
- The business has adhered to and implemented all of the restrictions required in response to Covid-19

The grant will be a one off payment of £25,000.00

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) (LRSO Sector)

Nightclubs and sexual entertainment venues closed since 23 March 2020

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (LRSO Closed) & Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum (LRSO Closed Addendum)

Payments of £667.00/ £1,000.00/ £1,500.00 per fortnight (depending on Rateable Value) where national restrictions dictate that the business must close. Not applicable during local restrictions.

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) (LRSO Open)

Fortnightly payments of £467/ £700/ £1,050 (depending on Rateable Value) where local restrictions dictate that the business must close. Not applicable during national lockdown (**may** instead qualify for LRSO (closed) Addendum grant).

Christmas Support Payment for Wet led pubs grant (CSP)

Additional support over the festive period for wet-led pubs in areas under Tier 2 or 3 restrictions. Pubs that predominantly serve alcohol rather than provide food will be eligible for a one off additional grant of £1,000. This scheme closed on 29 December 2020.

New Lockdown Grant

On 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown, with many non-essential businesses required to close once again until at least February half-term. On 5 January 2021, the Chancellor announced a one-off top up grant for affected businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, worth up to £9,000 per property to help businesses through to the Spring.

The new one-off grants come in addition to existing business support grants of up to £3,000 for ratepaying businesses who are forced to close, and £2,100 per month for impacted businesses once they reopen.

Government has announced that the one-off top-ups will be granted to closed businesses on a per property basis as follows:

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

At present we await further details from Government about this scheme and fund allocations.

Report Author

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List of background Papers

Local Restrictions support guidance

Scheme of Delegation report - Local and Additional Restrictions Grant Policy, December 2020

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Restrictions Grant policy

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LOCAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT POLICY

Version 3

JANUARY 2020

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Introduction

On 9th, 22nd and 31st October 2020, 19th December 2020 and 5th January 2021, the Government announced the introduction of additional support for businesses to be made available via a series of grants to be paid by local authorities.

Local authorities are required to adopt policies to distribute grants to business, through periods of national and local restrictions. In Staffordshire, Tier 2 restrictions were imposed from 31 October and superseded by national restrictions imposed from 5 November, which required many businesses to close until 2 December. A new Tiered system was developed from 2 December onwards.

This document describes the manner in which this Council will distribute its funding to local businesses. Support will take the form of the following grants.

Name of Grant	Businesses Affected
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) & Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum LRSG-C	Businesses mandated to close. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 day period from 5 November. • Subsequent periods during which closures are mandated.
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) LRSG-S	Nightclubs etc. closed since 23 March 2020
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) LRSG-O	Leisure, Hospitality and Accommodation Businesses severely impacted under the 3 tier system
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)	Discretionary fund to be developed in phases.

The underlying principle of this policy is that the Council will distribute grants in accordance with the methodology that the government has used to allocate funding to the Council. Whilst recognising discretion given to the Council

- LRSG-C LRSG-S & LRSG-O will be paid in line with the government guidance.
- ARG will be used to award similar levels of grant to organisations not qualifying for other grants and to fund local business support activities.

The Policy will be updated from time to time, to reflect the changes to guidance and funding, and will be reviewed in its entirety no later than 30 April 2021.

1. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)

This grant is intended to cover those businesses that were mandated to close as a consequence of government restrictions, either during the 28 day period of national lockdown from 5 November or any other periods during which business closures are mandated.

This will affect businesses providing in-person services to customers from their business premises and include non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses.

Exclusions to Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)

- 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 (e.g. accountants, solicitors) are not eligible for the grant.
- Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

The Council may from time to time define categories of business to be excluded from these grants.

1.1 National Lockdown 5 November to 2 December

During national lockdown this typically include the following types of business.

Amusements and visitor attractions (family entertainment centres)	Night Clubs*
Art Gallery / Museum (privately owned)	Outdoor Pursuits Centres
Bars	Play Centres /Soft Play Centres
Beauticians and salons	Private Golf Courses and Driving Ranges
Bowling Allies	Public Houses
Cafés with indoor / outdoor seating	Registered bed and breakfast accommodation (not Airbnb accommodation)
Bookmakers	Restaurants
Camping and Caravan sites	Shops and Retail Outlets selling non-essential goods.
Discotheques*	Sexual Entertainment Venues*
Gyms, yoga / dance centres	Sports Clubs (e.g. football, rugby)
Hairdressers	Theatres / Cinemas / Event Spaces
Hotels	Trampoline Centres
Ice Rinks	Urban farms
Leisure Centres	
Market Stalls (indoor or outdoor)	
Nail Bars	

Organisations marked * above, which were subject to national closures since 23 March 2020 will also be able to claim Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) for periods from 1-4 November and 3 December onwards.

The term 'closed' for the purpose of this grant means that the substantive function of the business has been forced to close. So bars and restaurants, shops etc. which are able to trade as click and collect, delivery or take-aways only, will be treated as being closed.

Grants will initially be paid on a one-off basis, in respect of a 28 day period commencing on 5 November at the following rates;

- a. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value of £15,000 or under on 5 November will receive a payment of £1,334.
- b. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 5 November will receive a payment of £2,000.
- c. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value of £51,000 or above on 5 November, will receive a payment of £3,000.

For the avoidance of doubt, grants will be paid according to the rating list as it appears on 5 November 2020. Entries into the list after this date will not attract a grant, even if made retrospectively with effective dates prior to 5 November.

Where it appears to the Council that an entry in the list is erroneous and needs to be removed, the Council will not pay the grant.

Similarly, the rate of grant payments will not be altered as a consequence of changes to rateable value made after 5 November.

In cases where it was factually clear to the Council that the rating list was inaccurate on that date, we may withhold the grant and/or award the grant based on the view of who would have been entitled to the grant had the list been accurate. This is entirely at the discretion of the Local Authority and only intended to prevent manifest errors.

Grants are paid to the person or organisation who was responsible for the business rates on 5 November. Where the Council has reason to believe that the information that they hold about the ratepayer on 5 November is inaccurate they may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.

Where a grant is applicable for 31 October to 4 November while Tier 2 restrictions were in place, this grant will be paid along with Tier 3 grants for 2 December onwards- see below.

1.2 Tier 3 Restrictions from 2 December 2020 onwards.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) paid for any time during which Staffordshire is a designated Tier 3 risk area are similar in nature to those paid during lockdown. Some differences do apply and so the grants are documented in full here.

The following types of business are required to close during Tier 3 restrictions.

Amusements and visitor attractions (family entertainment centres)	Outdoor Pursuits Centres
Art Gallery / Museum (privately owned)	Play Centres /Soft Play Centres
Bars	Private Golf Courses and Driving Ranges
Bowling Allies	Public Houses Registered bed and breakfast accommodation (not Airbnb accommodation)
Cafés with indoor / outdoor seating	Restaurants
Bookmakers	Sexual Entertainment Venues*
Camping and Caravan sites	Sports Clubs (e.g. football, rugby)
Discotheques*	Theatres / Cinemas / Event Spaces
Yoga / dance centres Hotels	Trampoline Centres
Ice Rinks	Urban farms
Leisure Centres	
Night Clubs*	

Organisations marked * above, which were subject to national closures since 23 March 2020 will also be able to claim Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) for periods from 1-4 November and 2 December onwards.

The term 'closed' for the purpose of this grant means that the substantive function of the business has been forced to close. So bars and restaurants, shops etc. which are able to trade as click and collect, delivery or take-aways only, will be treated as being closed.

Grants will be paid, to businesses mandated to close, on a 14-day recurring basis, commencing on 2 December at the following rates;

- a. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive a payment of £667 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.
- b. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 5 November will receive a payment of £1,000 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.
- c. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value of £51,000 or above on 5 November, will receive a payment of £1,500 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.

Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after the first full day of localised restrictions and business closures regulations came into force including changes which have been backdated to this date, will be ignored for the purposes of eligibility.

The Council will not adjust, pay or recover grants where the rating list is subsequently amended retrospectively to the date that local restrictions began.

In cases where it was factually clear to the Council on the local restriction date that the rating list was inaccurate on that date, we may withhold the grant and/or award the grant based on their view of who would have been entitled to the grant had the list been accurate. This is entirely at the discretion of the Local Authority and only intended to prevent manifest errors.

1.3 Tier 2 Restriction Periods

During any period of Tier 2 restrictions, closure rules apply to bars and public houses which do not serve substantial meals. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) can therefore be paid as follows.

- a. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive a payment of £667 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.

- b. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 5 November will receive a payment of £1,000 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.
- c. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the rating list with a rateable value of £51,000 or above on 5 November, will receive a payment of £1,500 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.

A pro-rata payment may be made to businesses in this category, to cover the period from 31st October to 4th November. No payment will be made for periods prior to 31st October

1.4 Wet-Led Public Houses

On 1 December 2020, the Government announced the introduction of additional support over the festive period for wet-led pubs in areas under Tier 2 or 3 restrictions following the scheduled Tier review dates of 2 December and 16 December. It is accepted that pubs will miss out on business in the run up to Christmas due to these tighter restrictions.

Pubs that predominantly serve alcohol rather than provide food will be eligible for a one off additional grant of £1,000.

Local Authorities may request that pubs provide accounting evidence that they derive under 50% of their income from food sales to determine that the pub is wet-led. These accounts should be dated no later than 11 March 2020 (covering a period when trade was not affected by Covid-19).

This scheme will close on 29 December 2020. Final applications must be received by Local Authorities by 31 January 2021.

It is expected that Local Authorities will provide local businesses with grant funding as soon as possible and no later than 28 February 2021.

1.5 National Lockdown 5 January 2021 to 15 February 2021

This is awaiting detail, guidance & FAQ from Central Government. **The detail below is therefore draft only** and is based on the original RLHG and Central Government's statement of 05/01/2021 Single payment from 05/01/2021 of £4,000.00/ £6,000.00/ £9,000.00 (depending on RV).

- Must be ratepayer
- Not in liquidation/ dissolved
- Forced to close to comply with national lockdown restrictions
 - Non-essential shops including vape shops & showrooms
 - Pubs & bars
 - Casinos, cinemas, amusement arcades & bowling alleys
 - Skating rinks, bingo halls, theatres & museums
 - Indoor gyms (classes, not individual)

- Live sports venues
- Hotels etc.
- All indoor gyms & leisure centres
- Personal care (nail bars/ hairdressers)
- Betting shops
- Community centres (except for providing education and training)
- Can be received in addition to LRSG

2. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)

Eligible businesses are Nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques, sexual entertainment venues and hostess bars that have been subject to national closures since 23 March 2020 and which have not been able to re-open as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.

Businesses must have been trading on **23 March 2020** to be eligible to receive a grant payment.

Other businesses may be added to this list in future, but those entitled to Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) cannot receive 'Sector' grants for the same period. If new national closures of business property types are announced, then the business must have been trading on the date of the announced closure in order to be eligible.

During the period 5 November to 2 December these businesses will receive Restrictions Support Grant (Closed), as above. 'Sector' grants will resume from 3 December, for as long as the businesses are mandated to close and they do not receive an LRSG for the period.

For the avoidance of doubt, businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

Business in this sector will not be eligible if they have re-purposed their business and as a result been able to open, for example changing their business from a nightclub to a bar.

The person who, according to the billing authority's records, was the ratepayer in respect of the hereditament on the 1 November 2020 is eligible for the grant. Where the Local Authority has reason to believe that the information that they hold about the ratepayer on the first full day of the national restrictions is inaccurate they may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.

Following the 28 day lockdown period, payments will be made, as follows, for each **14-day period** of closure.

- Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of £15,000 or under on the date of the commencement of the national restrictions will receive a payment of £667 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.
- Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on the date of the commencement of the national restrictions will receive a payment of £1,000 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.
- Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or above on the commencement date of the national restrictions will receive a payment of £1,500 per 14-day qualifying restriction period.

A pro-rata payment will be made to businesses in this sector, to cover the period from 31st October to 4th November. No payment will be made for periods prior to 31st October.

3. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)

This strand of support was announced by the government on 22 October 2020 to help kick-start recovery for businesses that are not legally required to close but are severely impacted by the restrictions under Local Covid Alert Level 'High' (LCAL 2) and 'Very High' (LCAL 3) restrictions.

On 31 October 2020 the county of Staffordshire entered the 'High' (LCAL 2) category which imposed local restrictions on businesses and residents. A series of grants were available to support businesses affected by such restrictions, though these were somewhat superseded by the national lockdown measures, from 5 November.

Local Authorities have the freedom to determine the precise eligibility criteria for these grants. However, Government would expect the funding to be targeted at hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses. Local Authorities should consider how the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) funding can help kick-start recovery by supporting sustainable businesses that have not been legally required to close but which are severely impacted by LCAL 2 or 3 restrictions.

For each 14 day period that Staffordshire is categorised as a stage 2 or stage 3 risk level, the following Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) will be paid.

- Grants of up to £467 per 14-day period for hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on the date of the commencement of the local restrictions (31 October)

- Grants of up to £700 per 14-day period for hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on the date of the commencement of the local restrictions. (31 October)
- Grants of up to £1,050 per 14-day period for hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or above on the date of the commencement of the local restrictions. (31 October)

A pro-rata payment may be made to businesses in this category, to cover the period from 31st October to 4th November. No payment will be made for periods prior to 31st October.

A small discretionary fund will be available to assist with other types of business outside of these criteria.

4. Additional Restrictions Grant

Under the Additional Restrictions Grant, the council received a one off lump sum payment amounting to £20 per head of population as national restrictions were imposed on 5 November.

The Council is required to write a policy to allocate those funds during the period from 5 November 2020 to 31 March 2022. Local authorities can use this funding for any business support activities. The government envisage this will primarily take the form of discretionary grants, but the council may also use this funding for wider business support activities; on its own or with other partner organisations, such as other Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Who can apply for the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)?

Businesses may be able to claim an ARG business support grant from us if their business meets ALL of the following criteria:

- **the business was open and trading as usual on 4 November 2020**
- **the businesses hasn't and isn't eligible to receive support from the Local Restrictions Support Grant (exclusions to this on the ARG-3 scheme)**
- **the business is not in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been given.**
- **The business has been significantly financially impacted by local and national restrictions & the pandemic.**

This council will take a phased approach to the allocation of these funds with the phase one providing urgently needed support to businesses that are seriously

impacted by the national lockdown but do not qualify for Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed).

Phase two will provide support to a wider range of businesses who have been seriously impacted by the national lockdown / localised restrictions (tier system).

Additional Restrictions Grant 1 - National Lockdown / Localised Restrictions (Tier system) Closed Business Scheme (ARG –1) –

This scheme covers from the 5th November 2020 and is aimed to support businesses mandated to close during the National Lockdown and Local restrictions (Tier System) and will therefore be paid to:

- Businesses mandated to close which were trading on 4 November from commercial premises for which they are not the direct ratepayer (e.g. shared spaces or premises under a paramount control of another party)
- Market Traders who have, up to 5 November, traded regularly on either a Tuesday or Saturday on Tamworth Street market, who are not allowed to trade, due to the nature of their business
- Businesses based from home that are unable to trade from 5 November, due to either their business activity being not allowed to trade or where the business receives 80% of its income from a sector that is not allowed to trade
- .

Businesses excluded from the fund

Businesses cannot get funding if:

- they continue to operate during the period of restrictions because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from your premises (for example accountants)
- they have chosen to close, but have not been required to close as part of national restrictions
- the business is in administration, insolvent or has been struck off the Companies House register
- they have exceeded the permitted state aid limit

Businesses will receive a grant payment of £1,334.00 for each 28-day qualifying restrictions period.

Only businesses mandated to close from the Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Personal Care sectors will be eligible to claim this grant.

Additional Restrictions Grant 2 – Severely Affected Scheme (ARG –2)

This scheme covers businesses who, whilst not mandated to close either;

- Provide goods or ‘business to business services’ to a customer base that is mandated to close either as a result of a National Lockdown or Localised Restrictions (Tier system).
 - This include businesses which supply sectors such as:
 - Retail
 - Hospitality
 - leisure sectors
 - events sector
- Businesses who are still operating, but with a significant reduction in demand due to social distancing rules.

Eligible businesses must be able to evidence a loss of turnover of more than 30%, compared to the same trading period in 2019.

All businesses will receive a one off grant payment of £5,000. Recipients will not be allowed to access any further ARG grant until after April 1st 2022.

Additional Restrictions Grant schemes 1 & 2 are currently only available to businesses who haven’t and aren’t eligible to receive support from the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

ARG 3 – Localised Restrictions - Additional help for businesses in the Hospitality and Leisure Sector with a Rateable Value of £51,000 or above (ARG –3)

Business may be eligible for an additional grant if they meet the following criteria:

- The business is in the hospitality sector, leisure sector or be a hotel that is not part of a chain and the business has not previously received a £25,000 grant
- The business is liable for business rates and your rateable value is £51,000 or above
- The business has received a Localised Restrictions (Tier) and/or a National Lockdown Grant
- The business has adhered to and implemented all of the restrictions required in response to Covid

Tamworth Borough Council will identify those businesses who meet the above criteria from previous applications and will automatically award the additional grant payment.

The grant will be a one off payment of £25,000.00

ARG 1 &2 Evidence

Businesses must submit the following information in order for their application to be considered:

	Businesses forced to close (ARG-1)	Businesses severely affected (ARG-2)
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Eligibility Evidence	<p>Businesses with premises or home based should provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed statement within application confirming mandated closure. <p>Market traders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed statement within application confirming mandated closure. - Sign off by relevant TBC Officer and LSD promotions, that trader did not trade at all during period. 	<p>1 - Businesses must detail how they have been severely impacted by mandated closure of their customer base.</p> <p>2 - Businesses must provide at least one piece of evidence, showing impact, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bank statements for October and November, showing the decline in revenue / sales. - Business's financial accounts, showing decline revenue / sales during November. - Sales data showing a significant fall in sales during November. - Notifications from supply chain of closure of their businesses or cancellation / pause of orders / business to business services. <p>This is not a complete list and businesses should provide evidence they feel supported their assessment of being severely impacted.</p>
Applying business must have been trading on 4 November 2020	<p>Evidence of the business trading actively, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A delivery note - Expenses/sales receipt - Purchase order 	
Applying Business is based in Tamworth Borough / Home based business applicant must be a permanent resident in Tamworth Borough	<p>Recent rent demand /utility bill linking the business to the address in the application form.</p> <p>Home based this could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business bank account with home address - Latest business insurance to run business from home 	
Verifying business identity	Recent bank statement for the business	

Application Process

For all of the above grants, applications will be made online and the applicant may be required to confirm;

- That they satisfy the eligibility criteria relevant to the appropriate grant application.
- The nature of the business. (Sector)
- The company registration number or UTR number in the case of sole traders.
- Size of the business (employees, turnover, balance sheet)
- That they were trading from the premises on the appropriate qualifying date
- That they have closed the business when required to do so in line with restrictions if applicable
- That receipt of the grant will not exceed State Aid compliance rules
- The bank account into which the grant is to be paid.
- Evidence of the bank account (this will not be needed if it was provided in support of a Business Support Grant earlier in 2020)

In addition for ARG:

- Copy of lease or rental agreement if appropriate (Phase 1 & 2)
- Evidence of a minimum of 30% loss in turnover from 1st September-30th November 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.(Phase 2) (businesses that started after 1st September 2019 and have no comparable evidence will be treated on a case by case basis)

The Council may request such supporting information as it feels appropriate to confirm eligibility to grant payments. Grants will be withheld if applicants do not provide information requested within 3 days of submitting the application.

In taking decisions on the appropriate level of grant, the Council may have regard to the level of fixed costs faced by the business in question, the number of employees, whether they are unable to trade online and the consequent scale of coronavirus losses.

Appeals Process

Grants are paid at the discretion of the Council with awards being determined within the Economic Growth and Revenues teams as appropriate. No formal right of appeal exists, but an applicant who is dissatisfied with a grant determination may request that it be reviewed by a more senior officer within the department. Following this a further appeal can be made via the Councils Complaints procedure.

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Summary of Grants

Period	Prior to 31/10/2020	31/10/2020-04/11/2020 (5 days)	05/11/2020-02/12/2020 (28 days)	03/12/2020-30/12/2020 (28 days)	31/12/2020-04/01/2021 (5 days)	05/01/2021-15/02/2021 (42 days)	16/02/2021 onwards
Status	Various	Tier 3	National lockdown	Tier 3	Tier 4	National lockdown Grant	To be determined
Retail, Leisure & Hospitality (RHLG)	Yes						
Small Business Grant	Yes						
Discretionary Grant	Yes						
Additional Restrictions Grant 1 (ARG1)		Yes					
Additional Restrictions Grant 2 (ARG2)		Yes					
Additional Restrictions Grant 3 (ARG3)						Yes	
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) (LRSB (Sector))		Yes		Yes	Yes		
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (LRSB (closed))		Yes*		Yes	Yes		
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum (LRSB (Closed) Addendum)			Yes			Yes	
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) (LRSB (Open))		Yes		Yes	Yes		
Christmas Support Payment for Wet led pubs grant (CSP)				Yes			
New Lockdown Grant						Yes	

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