

Report to: **Cabinet**



Date of Meeting 31 March 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

---

## **Restart Grants**

### **Report summary:**

To implement the Government's Restart Grant Scheme that will provide support to businesses to help them reopen safely.

### **Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### **Recommendation:**

That Cabinet agree the Restart Grant Scheme policy.

To delegate authority to the Service Lead for Revenues, Benefits, Customer Services & Corporate Fraud & Compliance to make any technical changes to the policy.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

To deploy the Restart Grant Scheme to businesses in East Devon in accordance with government guidance.

Officer: Libby Jarrett, Service Lead for Revenues, Benefits, Customer Services, Corporate Fraud & Compliance [ljarrett@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:ljarrett@eastdevon.gov.uk)

---

### Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergencies
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Culture, Tourism, Leisure and Sport
- Democracy and Transparency
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk;

**Links to background information** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-restrictions-support-grants-lrsg-and-additional-restrictions-grant-arg-guidance-for-local-authorities>

**Link to [Council Plan](#):**

Priorities (check which apply)

- Outstanding Place and Environment
  - Outstanding Homes and Communities
  - Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
  - Outstanding Council and Council Services
- 

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 There have been various grant schemes to provide support to businesses impacted by national and local restrictions since April 2020. The Restart grant scheme follows on from the current LRSG (Closed) Addendum scheme which provided grant support to businesses covering the period from 5 January 2021 until 31 March 2021. During this period businesses also benefitted from the CBLP one off grant payment. More information about the different grant schemes and what has been paid out to support East Devon businesses is shown under section 5.
- 1.2 As part of the Chancellor’s announcement in the Budget on 3 March 2021 the government are providing support to businesses in the form of a one-off grant payment in order to help them reopen safely. The grant levels take account of the roadmap for when some sectors can reopen and the impact on restrictions when they do reopen. These grants are aimed at businesses who provide in-person services in the following sectors:
- non-essential retail
  - hospitality
  - accommodation
  - leisure
  - personal care
  - gyms
- 1.3 This only applies to businesses on the rating list.

**2.0 Level of Funding & Eligibility**

- 2.1 There are two strands to the Restart Grants and within each strand there are 3 different thresholds of payment.

Rateable Value thresholds	Strand 1	Strand 2
£15K or under	£2,667	£8,000
Over £15K & below £51K	£4,000	£12,000
£51K and above	£6,000	£18,000

Based on rateable value in rating list as at 1 April 2021

- 2.2 Strand 1: Up to £6,000 per hereditament

Non-essential retail that provides in person-services to the general public.

Excludes; food retailers (supermarkets, convenience stores, food markets, corner shops, newsagents) off licences, breweries, pharmacies, chemists, animal rescue centres, boarding facilities, building merchants, petrol stations, vehicle repair and MOT services, bicycle shops, taxi and vehicle hire businesses, education providers including tutoring services, banks, building societies and other financial providers, post offices, funeral directors, launderettes and dry cleaners, medical practices, veterinary surgeries and pet

shops, wholesalers, employment agencies and businesses, office buildings, automatic car washes and mobility support shops.

### 2.3 Strand 2: Up to £18,000 per hereditament

Hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses

### 2.4 **Hospitality**

2.4.1 Defined as a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink.

- Businesses offering in-person food and drink services to the general public
- Businesses that provide food and/or drink to be consumed on the premises, including outdoors

Excludes: Food kiosks and business whose main service is a takeaway.

### 2.5 **Leisure**

2.5.1 Defined as a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out.

- Businesses that provide in-person intangible experiences in addition to goods.
- Businesses that may assume particular public safety responsibilities
- Businesses that may operate with irregular hours through day, night and weekends
- Businesses that may rely on seasonal labour

Excludes: all retail businesses, coach tour operators, tour operators and telescopes.

### 2.6 **Accommodation**

2.6.1 Defined as a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes.

- Businesses that provide accommodation for 'away from home' stays for work or leisure purposes
- Businesses that provide accommodation for short-term leisure and holiday purposes.

Excludes: private dwellings, education accommodation, residential homes, care homes, residential family centres, beach huts.

### 2.7 **Gym & sports**

2.7.1 Defined as a commercial or non-profit establishment where physical exercise or training is conducted on an individual basis or group basis, using equipment or open floor space with or without instruction, or where individual and group sporting, athletic and physical activities are participated in competitively or recreationally.

- businesses that offer in-person exercise and sport activities to the general public.
- businesses that open to members of the public paying an entry or membership fee
- businesses that require extensive cleaning protocols which significantly slow down trade
- businesses that offer exercise classes or activities, which may mandate space and no masks, etc.

Excludes: home gyms, home exercise studios, home sports courts and home sports grounds.

### 2.8 **Personal care**

2.8.1 Defined as a business which provides a service, treatment or activity for the purposes of personal beauty, hair grooming, body care and aesthetics and wellbeing.

- businesses that deliver in-person holistic, beauty and hair treatments

- businesses that provide services such as tattoos and piercings
- businesses that offer close-contact services, which are required to deliver the treatment
- businesses that offer services, treatments or activities that require social distancing and cleaning protocols, which have led to a reduction in their capacity to deliver personal care services

Excludes: businesses that only provide personal care goods rather than services, training centres for staff, dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths, and other medical or health services (including services which incorporate personal care services, treatments required by those with disabilities and services relating to mental health.

## 2.9 Other eligibility criteria

2.9.1 Businesses must have been trading on 1 April 2021 to be eligible to receive funding under this scheme. As most businesses in these sectors will have been mandated to close this is interpreted as carrying on a trade or profession, or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover. Suggested trading indicators include:

- the business has staff on furlough
- the business continues to trade online, via click and collect services, etc
- the business is not in liquidation, dissolved, struck off or subject to a striking off notice or under notice.
- the business is engaged in business activity; managing accounts preparing for reopening, planning and implementing Covid-safe measures.

2.9.3 The grants are subject to the new subsidy allowance rules that replaces state aid.

2.9.2 More detailed information about scheme eligibility is available here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-restrictions-support-grants-lrsg-and-additional-restrictions-grant-arg-guidance-for-local-authorities>

## 3.0 Claim process

3.1 Businesses will need to make an online application as they are required to self-certify that they meet all eligibility criteria. The government expect the online claim process to be open as soon as possible from 1 April 2021.

3.2 The application closure date for this scheme is 30 June 2021 and final payment made by local authorities by 31 July 2021

## 4.0 Next Steps

4.1 We are already working with our colleagues in Teignbridge, Exeter and Strata to develop an online claim process for businesses.

4.2 The draft policy is contained in the background links of this report.

## 5.0 Summary

5.1 For the last 12 months my service together with the Growth, Prosperity & Development team have been at the forefront of delivering a programme of grant schemes which has meant we have currently paid out over £62m in support to our East Devon businesses. I have set out in the table below the breakdown across the different schemes.

As at 23 March 2021

Grant name /period	Approved	Total paid
National restrictions LRSG (C ) Addendum 16 February - 31 March 2021	1,402	3,414,834
National restrictions LRSG (C ) Addendum & CBLP 5 January -15 February 2021	1,704	11,450,890
Tier 2/Tier 3 Local Restrictions - 2 December to 4 January 2021		
LRSG (O)	644	1,193,862
LRSG (C)	393	143,417
Christmas support payment –Wet Led pubs	62	62,000
Additional Restrictions Grant - January restrictions	303	1,329,579
National restrictions – 5 November to 1 December 2020 LRSG (C ) Addendum	1,614	2,421,206
Additional Restrictions Grant - November restrictions	137	134,950
Scheme 1 - Small Business Rate Relief Grant (Spring 2020)	2,759	27,590,000
Scheme 2A & 2B Retail Hospitality & Leisure Grant (Spring 2020)	926	15,365,000
Discretionary (Summer 2020)	299	2,310,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,841</b>	<b>62,000,904</b>

### **Financial implications:**

The payment of these grants is within specific government funding provided for this purpose.

### **Legal implications:**

This is a non-discretionary Government grant scheme which is fully funded. The Council will need to deliver the scheme in accordance with the terms set by Government. There are no other implications requiring comment.