

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL RESTRICTION SUPPORT GRANT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANTS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr David Thain
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report considers the new support and the council's guidelines for making awards from its allocation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) The guidance for awards of Local Restriction Support Grant (Open) and Additional Restrictions Grant detailed in the attached are adopted.
- b) The Head of Financial and Customer Services is authorised to finalise the guidance and to make other decisions including amendments to the guidelines in relation to the payment of grants, in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance and enabling.
- c) The determination and payment of grants, in line with the guidelines, is delegated to Revenue Services Officers.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The government announced new schemes of support for businesses impacted by the coronavirus restrictions in November 2020.
- 3.2 The announcement introduced five schemes of support which are applicable as local authorities move between tiers of local restrictions or in cases where national restrictions are imposed. The visualisation below summarises which grant schemes become payable at each level of restriction.

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	Available Funding Schemes: Local Restrictions & Additional Restrictions Grant			
Covid Alert Level	Medium Tier 1	High Tier 2	Very High Tier 3	National
Local Funding Scheme			LRSB(Closed)	LRSB(Closed) Addendum
		Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)		
			Additional Restrictions Grant	
Sector Funding Scheme	Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)			

3.3 A basic summary of each grant scheme is included below:

3.4 Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed)

LRSB (Closed) is a mandatory grant scheme which will provide support to businesses which are subject to closure by law due to tier 3 restrictions being placed on a local area.

To qualify for LRSB (Closed) a business must:

- be required to close for a consecutive period of not less than 14 days.
- be providing in-person services from the premises required to close, and unable to provide these services remotely.
- be the eligible ratepayer on the day the restrictions take effect.
- be open and trading on the day before the restrictions came into effect.
- pubs, bars and restaurants which are required to close by law, but open to provide a click and collect or takeaway service will be treated as closed.

3.5 Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) addendum

LRSO (Closed) addendum is a mandatory grant scheme which will provide support to businesses which are required by law to close due to national restrictions being implemented. The qualifying criteria for the grant will be the same as LRSO (Closed), however, the period over which payments are made will be increased.

3.6 Local Restriction Support Grant (Open)

LRSO (Open) is a discretionary grant scheme which will provide support to businesses which are significantly impacted by restrictions on socialising that are implemented because an area has entered tier 2 or tier 3 restrictions.

The qualifying criteria for the grant are included in the appendix to the report. Government has recommended that support is provided to business within the hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure sectors. The guidance will target support to these businesses and to businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure supply chain and to businesses within the late-night economy impacted by restriction on socialising.

3.7 Local Restriction Support Grant (Sector)

LRSO (Sector) is a mandatory grant scheme which will provide support to businesses in sectors required to close at a national level. At present these restrictions apply to nightclubs, discothèques, sexual entertainment venues and hostess bars. To qualify for LRSO (Sector) a business must:

- have been required to close at a national level and been closed since 23rd March 2020
- be liable ratepayer on 1st November 2020

3.8 Additional Restrictions Grant

ARG is a discretionary scheme and local authorities must develop their own criteria for any grants offered under the scheme. Funding has been provided for the period to 31st March 2022 and details of the guidance proposed is included in the appendix to the report.

3.9 Exclusions to grants apply to all schemes and grants will not be provided where a business is in liquidation, administration or is subject to a striking off notice. Grants must be compliant with EU state aid rules and companies will be required to confirm a grant is state aid compliant.

3.7 The amount of grant to be provided and the periods for which grants are paid is detailed in the following tabulation.

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	LRSG – Open	LRSG – Closed	LRSG – Closed Addendum	LRSG – Sector	Additional Restrictions Grant
Grant Payment Cycle	28 days	14 days	28 days	14 days	Determined locally
Grant Payable RV £0 - £15,000	£934	£667	£1,334	£667	
Grant Payable RV £15,001 - £50,999	£1,400	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000	
Grant Payable RV £51,000 & Above	£2,100	£1,500	£3,000	£1,500	

Financial Implications

- 3.11 The costs of the grants made under the grant schemes will be met in full by Government. Controls must be put in place to ensure that the award of grant does not exceed the funds allocated by Government.

Legal Implications

- 3.12 There are no specific legal implications.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.13 The operation of the scheme will place additional pressures on the Revenue Services Section – the scheme will be delivered within existing resources but a review of the impact of delivery of discretionary schemes on the effectiveness of the revenues services will be required and additional resources may be needed to remedy any decline in overall performance.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.14 The scheme will be required to deliver support quickly to businesses within Redditch and must ensure that the maximum amount of funding is made available to businesses within the Redditch area.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT.

- 4.1 There is risk of reputational damage if the scheme does not maximise expenditure and ensure the full amount of support is provided to businesses within the Borough of Redditch.

5. **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Redditch Borough Council – Guidelines for Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open).

Appendix B: Redditch Borough Council – Guidelines for Additional Restrictions Grant (Discretionary Grant) Scheme

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Guidance documents published by Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS):

Local Restriction Support Grant (Open) Guidance for Local Authorities

Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) Guidance for Local Authorities

Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) Addendum Guidance for Local Authorities Support Grant (Sector) Guidance for Local Authorities

Additional Restrictions Grant Guidance for Local Authorities

Technical FAQs documents published by BEIS

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