

**Audit, Governance
& Standards Committee
2021**

15th April

Covid Grants update

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Thain, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	-
Relevant Head of Service	Chris Forrester – Head of Finance and Customer Services
Report Author Chris Forrester	Job Title: Head of Finance and Customer Services Contact email: chris.forrester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 54252
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An effective and sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the updated position with regards to covid grants.

2. BACKGROUND

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising as set out in this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to comply with financial regulations.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

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- 5.1 The issues detailed in this report help to ensure that it is possible to run and grow a successful business in Redditch. The content of the report details how the council is managing and making payments in line with guidance from central government and in keeping with locally approved schemes.
- 5.2 In response to the Covid-19 pandemic Government has tasked local authorities with the administration of several schemes of business support the support has been delivered in three phases.
- 5.3 Phase one of the support package was announced in the budget of 12th March 2020 and provided four broad schemes of support:
- a) Expanded Retail Discount: a 100% discretionary business rates relief for retail, hospitality, and leisure premises.
 - b) Nursery Discount: a 100% discretionary business rates relief for nurseries and early years learning providers.
 - c) Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF): a business support grant of £10,000 for businesses eligible for small business rates relief, or rural rate relief.
 - d) Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants (RHLG): a business support grant of £10,000 or £25,000 for businesses which were eligible for expanded retail discount.
- 5.4 The phase one response was enhanced by the later provision of additional funding for a Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund (LADGF) a discretionary fund to support business which were excluded from SBGF and RHLG.
- 5.5 In phase two of the response Government announced schemes of support for businesses that would be impacted by closures or restrictions that were in place because of the local covid alert level. The schemes of support would be dependent on:
- i) the sector in which a business was operating.
 - ii) whether the business could remain open but would be impacted by restrictions; and
 - iii) whether the business was required to close by law.
- The schemes would be called Local Restriction Support Grants (LRSG) and there were three categories of support:

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- a) LRSB (Sector): a grant for business which had been required to remain closed since 23rd March 2020
- b) LRSB (Open): a grant for businesses which during tier 2 or tier 3 restrictions could remain open but were significantly impacted by restrictions on socialising. There are two iterations of the scheme and the date of restrictions will determine which scheme is applicable.
- c) LRSB (Closed): a grant for business which were required by law to close during tier 2, 3, 4 or national restrictions. There are five iterations of the scheme and the date and level of restrictions will determine which scheme is applicable.

- 5.6 The phase two response included a fund named the additional restrictions grant (ARG) which was intended to provide local authorities with the means to create discretionary schemes of support for businesses impacted by restrictions. The ARG was to be paid to local authorities when they entered tier 3 restrictions and would be a one-off fund to enable support to be provided up to 31st March 2022. The initial Government announcement stated that the fund would not be topped up.
- 5.7 The phase two response was later increased with the creation of the Christmas Support Payment for Wet-Led pubs (CSP). A one off payment of £1,000 which would be provided to qualifying pubs which were subject to tier 2 or tier 3 restrictions between 2nd December 2020 and 29th December 2020.
- 5.8 When national restrictions were announced in January 2021 the phase two response was enhanced with the creation of a Closed Business Lockdown Payment (CBLP) a one of grant for businesses that would be subject to closure from 5th January. The announcement of CBLP also included a statement that ARG would be topped-up with £500m in additional support to be shared by local authorities.
- 5.9 The 3rd of March 2021 budget contained the phase three response; within phase 3 local authorities will be providing four forms of support

Expanded Retail Discount: 100% business rates discount will continue until 30th June at which point it will reduce to 66% with a cap of £2m

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for premises required to close on 5th January and £105,000 for other eligible businesses

Nursery Discount: 100% business rates discount will continue until 30th June at which point it will reduce to 66% capped at a maximum of £105,000 relief

Business Restart Grants: a business support grant of up to £6,000 for non-essential retail premises and up to £18,000 for hospitality, accommodation, personal care, leisure, and gym businesses

Additional Restrictions Grant: The ARG fund will be topped up if November and January allocations of funding are committed and spent.

- 5.10 Phase one grant schemes closed for applications on 31st August 2020 and all grants were paid and determined by 30th September 2020. Expenditure under the phase one schemes was as below. The allocated funding was not applicable for some grant schemes as it was rules based rather than limited funding.

Grant Scheme	Allocated Funding (£)	Expenditure (£)
SBGF	Not Applicable	9,270,000
RHLG	Not Applicable	4,720,000
LADGF	724,000	724,000

- 5.11 Expanded Retail Discount and Nursery Discount are awarded using the discretionary powers of the authority. Expanded Retail Discount and Nursery Discount for the 2020/21 rate year can be awarded until 30th September 2020. Expenditure to date

Relief Scheme	Expenditure (£)
Expanded Retail Discount	14,445,590
Nursery Discount	92,665

- 5.12 Phase two schemes became payable on 1st November 2020. The table over sets out the relevant periods of restrictions which have been in place within Redditch, the local covid alert level during those periods, the grants that were payable during each period and the closing date for applications for each scheme.

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Period Start	Period End	Local Covid Alert Level	Grant Scheme Applicable	Closing Date
1 st November 2020	4 th November 2020	Tier 1	LRSB (Sector)	31 st March 2021
5 th November 2020	1 st December 2020	National Restrictions	LRSB (Closed) Addendum	31 st March 2021
2 nd December 2020	30 th December 2020	Tier 2	LRSB (Sector)	31 st March 2021
			LRSB (Open) Version 2	31 st March 2021
			LRSB (Closed) Version 2	31 st March 2021
			CSP	28 th February 2021
31 st December 2020	4 th January 2021	Tier 3	LRSB (Sector)	31 st March 2021
			LRSB (Open) Version 2	31 st March 2021
			LRSB (Closed) Version 2	31 st March 2021
5 th January 2021	15 th February 2021	National Restrictions	LRSB (Closed) Addendum 5 th January onwards	31 st March 2021
16 th February 2021	31 st March 2021	National Restrictions	LRSB (Closed) Addendum 5 th January onwards	31 st May 2021
5 th January 2021	31 st March 2021	National Restrictions	CBLP	31 st March 2021

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- 5.13 Phase two schemes include the discretionary additional restrictions grant. The grant was intended to provide support up to 31st March 2022; and Redditch has taken a phased approach to the delivery of support.
- 5.14 In the additional response phase a discretionary scheme is available to support business that are not required by law to close, and business that are not liable for business rates, and are therefore ineligible for the LRSG schemes.
- 5.15 The discretionary scheme mirrors the support that is available to businesses under the LRSG and CBLP schemes. Information relating to the top-up of ARG announced in January was not received until 24th February 2021 and this delay has impacted on the ability to shape the design of the support schemes.
- 5.16 At the conclusion of the response phase, as national restrictions are ended and the LRSG schemes are closed the remaining ARG funding will be distributed to businesses through a recovery support scheme.
- 5.17 The tabulations below display information on the funding provided to the authority for each of the relevant support grant schemes, the number of grants that have been provided and the total expenditure under each scheme. For LRSG (Sector) no specific funding has been provided and the amount of support awarded will be reconciled during the post grant assurance processes.
- 5.18 In the case of LRSG (Closed) funding allocated has exceeded the funding received; this is a mandatory grant and reconciliation of the expenditure will be made and additional funding provided.

Grant Scheme	LRSG (Sector)	LRSG (Closed)	LRSG (Open)
Funding Received		54,926	169,698.00
Number of Grants Paid	0	87	291
Amount of Funding Paid	0	37,074.73	125,189.79

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Grant Scheme	LRSB (Closed) Addendum	CSP	LRSB (Closed) Addendum 5 th January Onwards
Funding Received	921,204	25,600	2,829,412
Number of Grants Paid	351	26	351
Amount of Funding Paid	588,484	26,000	1,826,563

Grant Scheme	Closed Business Lockdown Payment	Additional Restrictions Grant
Funding Received	2,763,000	2,462,598
Number of Grants Paid	343	346
Amount of Funding Paid	1,720,000	1,037,883

5.19 The reason that all the funding has not been paid out for schemes other than the ARG scheme is because funding was based on the government estimate of total eligible businesses. Fewer businesses made claims in practice due to a variety of reasons, including no longer trading. This will be addressed when the reconciliation takes place with any monies not spent being paid back in lien with guidance. The reason why the ARG scheme has not been fully spent as yet is because a council decision was taken, based on the guidance, that 50% would be paid out and the rest held back as schemes were developed for the post covid lockdown restart. The council was told that these monies were a one off and would not be topped up and were for a multi-year period. This is now being addressed due to the change in guidance.

Climate Change Implications

5.20 There are no Climate Change implications arising out of this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

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6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising out of this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 As part of grant payments made appropriate controls are in place and checks are made.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Grant Eligibility Criteria

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Thain, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling	N/A
Lead Director / Head of Service	Chris Forrester – Head of Finance and Customer Services	April 2021
Financial Services	Chris Forrester – Head of Finance and Customer Services	April 2021
Legal Services	N/A	
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	N/A	
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	N/A	

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Appendix 1

Appendix A - Business Support Grants Eligibility Criteria

This appendix provides a summary of the business support grants which are and have been provided to businesses impacted by the coronavirus restrictions. There have been nine separate schemes of support and currently there are six live support schemes. Some of the schemes have several iterations and details of each of these is included within the relevant section.

Contents

1. [Grant Schemes Guidance](#)
 - a. [Local Restriction Support Grant \(Open\):](#) LRSG (Open)
 - b. [Local Restriction Support Grant \(Closed\):](#) LRSG (Closed)
 - c. [Local Restriction Support Grant \(Sector\):](#) LRSG (Sector)
 - d. [Additional Restrictions Grant:](#) ARG
 - e. [Christmas Support Payment for Wet-Led Pubs](#) CSP
 - f. [Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment:](#) CBLP
 - g. [Business Support Grant Fund:](#) BSGF
 - h. [Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund:](#) RHLG
 - i. [Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund:](#) LADGF

Grant Schemes Guidance

Local Restriction Support Grant (Open)

LRSO (Open) is a scheme of support available to business during periods in which an area is within Local Covid Alert Level “High” – Tier 2 Restrictions - or Local Covid Alert Level “Very High” – Tier 3 Restrictions.

There are two iterations of the scheme:

Local Restriction Support Grant (Open), applicable until 4th November 2020; and
Local Restriction Support Grant (Open), Version 2 applicable from 5th December 2020.

The principal difference between the two schemes is the period over which payments are determined and paid. LRSO (Open) provided payments over a 28-day period, LRSO (Open) Version 2 provides grants for each 14-day period of restrictions.

Where Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions are in place for a period of less than 14 days then relevant grant will be apportioned accordingly.

Qualifying Criteria

LRSO (Open) is a discretionary scheme which is designed to provide support to business which have been significantly impacted by the restrictions in socialising that are in place because an area is subject to Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions.

Each local authority can determine its own scheme of support, subject to a business meeting the minimum qualifying criteria set by Government, which are:

- The business must have been trading on the day before the relevant restrictions came into place.
- The businesses must not be in administration, insolvent or subject to a striking off notice.
- Businesses that have exhausted the state aid limits will not be eligible for grant.

Government has asked local authorities to prioritise support to hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure businesses.

The scheme in place for Redditch prioritises support to

- a) Hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure businesses
- b) Hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast, and leisure supply chain businesses
- c) Businesses dependant on the night-time economy.

To be eligible for a grant a business must be able to demonstrate a significant impact from the coronavirus restrictions.

Amount of Grant

The level of grant is summarised in the tabulation below:

LRSG (Open) – 28 Day Payment Period

Businesses occupying premises in the Non-Domestic Rating List		Businesses which do not occupy rateable premises	
Rateable Value	Grant	Turnover p.a.*	Grant
Less than £15,000	£934	Less than £140k	£934
£15,000 to £50,999	£1,400	£140k -to £499k	£1,400
Greater than £50,999	£2,100	£500k or above	£2,100

LRSG (Open) Version 2 – 14 Day Payment Period

Businesses occupying premises in the Non-Domestic Rating List		Businesses which do not occupy rateable premises	
Rateable Value	Grant	Turnover p.a.*	Grant
Less than £15,000	£467	Less than £140k	£467
£15,000 to £50,999	£700	£140k -to £499k	£700
Greater than £50,999	£1,050	£500k or above	£1,050

Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed)

LRSG (Closed) is a scheme of support available to business during periods in which an area is within Local Covid Alert Level “High” – Tier 2 Restrictions -, Local Covid Alert Level “Very High” – Tier 3 Restrictions -, or Tier 4 Restrictions.

There are five iterations of the scheme:

LRSG (Closed) applicable to 5th November 2020

LRSG (Closed) Addendum: Applicable for the period of 5th November 2020 to 1st December 2020

LRSG (Closed) Version 2: Applicable from 2nd December 2020

LRSG (Closed) Addendum Tier 4: Applicable during periods of tier 4 restrictions

LRSG (Closed) Addendum 5th January onwards: Applicable during the third national lockdown.

The schemes differ in the periods for which support is paid, with grants payable for 14-day, 28-day, or 42-day periods dependant on the scheme in operation.

Where restrictions are in place for a period of lesser periods then the relevant grant will be apportioned accordingly.

Qualifying Criteria

LRSG (Closed) is designed to provide support to business which are required to close by law due to Tier 2, Tier 3 or Tier 4 restrictions.

The Health Protection (coronavirus, restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations (as amended); and

The Health Protection (coronavirus, restrictions) (England) (All Tiers) Regulations (as amended)

Provide details of the businesses which are required to close.

To be eligible for a grant:

- The business must have been established and trading on the day before the restrictions came into effect.
- The business must have been providing in-person services to customers from their business premises.
- The business must be required to close for a consecutive period of no less than 14 days.
- The business must occupy premises appearing in the local rating list on the date of the commencement of local restrictions

Businesses which are required by law to close but remain open operating a click and collect or delivery service will be treated as closed for the purposes of grant.

Exclusions

The following exclusions are in place in relation to the grant.

- Businesses that can continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate effectively remotely – e.g. solicitors, accountants.
- Business subject to local restrictions that are implemented for less than 14 days and businesses that are closed for less than 14 days.
- Businesses that have chosen to close but are not required by law to do so.
- Businesses in administration, insolvent or where a striking off notice has been made are not eligible for grants.
- Businesses that have exhausted the state aid limits will not be eligible for grant.

Where national restrictions or tier 4 restrictions are in place then the:

LRSB (Closed) Addendum: Applicable for the period of 5th November 2020 to 1st December 2020

LRSB (Closed) Addendum Tier 4: Applicable during periods of tier 4 restrictions

LRSB (Closed) Addendum 5th January onwards: Applicable during the third national lockdown.

Iterations of the schemes will be in place. During these periods LRSB (Sector) ceases to apply and recipients of the sector grant will receive the relevant LRSB (Closed) payment.

For periods of Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions eligibility for LRSB (Sector) will exclude a business from receiving LRSB (Closed) payments.

Amount of Grant

The level of grant is summarised in the tabulation below:

Rateable Value	14-Day Period	28-Day Period	42-Day Period	44-Day Period
Up to £15,000	£667	£1,334	£2,001	£2,096
£15,000 to £50,999	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000	£3,143
£51,000 and over	£1,500	£3,000	£4,500	£4,714

Local Restriction Support Grant (Sector)

LRSB (sector) is a scheme of support available to business during periods in which an area is within Local Covid Alert Level "Medium" – Tier 1 Restrictions -, Local Covid Alert Level "High" – Tier 2 Restrictions -, Local Covid Alert Level "Very High" – Tier 3 Restrictions -, or Tier 4 Restrictions.

The scheme provides support to business which have been required to close at a national level since 23rd March 2020, at present the businesses eligible for support are:

- Nightclubs
- Dance Halls
- Discotheques
- Sexual Entertainment Venues; and
- Hostess Bars

The grant is payable in 14-day periods and where restrictions are in place for shorter periods and apportioned grant will be paid.

If additional business sectors are required to close at a national level, then they will become eligible for LRSB (Sector).

Qualifying Criteria

To be eligible for a grant:

- The premises occupied by the applicant must have been liable for business rates on 1st November 2020.
- Businesses must have been trading on 23rd March 2020 to be eligible for the grant.
- If new sector specific national restrictions are made, then the business must have been trading on the 1st day of those restrictions to be eligible for the grant.

Exclusions

The following exclusions are in place in relation to the grant.

- Businesses that have already received grant payments that equal the maximum levels of state aid permitted under the de -minimis and the Covid 19 Temporary State Aid Framework.
- Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
- Businesses which were formerly operating as nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques, sexual entertainment venues and hostess bars but have since repurposed and are able to stay open will not be eligible. For example, changing their business from a nightclub to a bar.

Where national restrictions or tier 4 restrictions are in place then the:

LRSB (Closed) Addendum: Applicable for the period of 5th November 2020 to 1st December 2020

LRSG (Closed) Addendum Tier 4: Applicable during periods of tier 4 restrictions
LRSG (Closed) Addendum 5th January onwards: Applicable during the third national lockdown.

schemes will be in place. During these periods LRSG (Sector) ceases to apply and recipients of the sector grant will receive the relevant LRSG (Closed) payment.

Amount of Grant

The level of grant is summarised in the tabulation below:

Rateable Value	Amount of Grant
Up to £15,000	£667
£15,000 to £50,999	£1,000
£51,000 and over	£1,500

Additional Restrictions Grant

ARG is a fund that has been provided to local authorities to support businesses within their local area. ARG is provided to authorities when they enter Local Covid Alert Level “Very High” – Tier 3 restrictions, or when national restrictions are imposed.

The funding is a one-off payment paid when restrictions are first put into place. In the guidance issued by Government in December 2020 local authorities were advised that the fund would not be topped-up if further national restrictions were implemented.

In January 2020 Government announced a top-up to the scheme for the period of the third national lockdown.

Qualifying Criteria

ARG is a discretionary fund which is designed to provide support to business which have been significantly impacted by the coronavirus restrictions. Each local authority can determine its own scheme of support, subject to a business meeting the minimum qualifying criteria set by Government, which are:

- The business must have been trading on the first day the relevant local or national restrictions came into place.
- The businesses must not be in administration, insolvent or subject to a striking off notice.
- Businesses that have exhausted the state aid limits will not be eligible for grant.

Redditch Borough Council has implemented a discretionary grant scheme intended to mirror the support available to businesses under the LRS (Closed) Schemes.

ARG (Discretionary Grant) will be provided to businesses which are not eligible for LRS schemes and are:

- a) Occupying rateable premises and are in the supply chain for businesses within the retail, hospitality, or leisure sectors.
- b) Occupying rateable premises and are within the events, exhibitions or travel and tourism sector
- c) Occupy premises that are not included in the rating list but have been ordered to close.
- d) Occupy premises which have not been ordered to close and are supported by the night-time economy.
- e) Other businesses which can demonstrate a significant loss in income because of the coronavirus restrictions.

Businesses will need to demonstrate a significant impact on income due to the coronavirus restrictions. This will be a loss in income of over 30%.

Amount of Grant

The level of grant is summarised in the tabulation below:

Rateable Value	14-Day Period	28-Day Period	42-Day Period	44-Day Period
Up to £15,000	£667	£1,334	£2,001	£2,096
£15,000 to £50,999	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000	£3,143
£51,000 and over	£1,500	£3,000	£4,500	£4,714

An additional payment of £4,000, £6,000 or £9,000 will be paid to businesses which occupy properties subject to Non-Domestic Rates and receiving ARG (Discretionary Grant) in the period from 5th January 2021 to 31st March 2022

Christmas Support Payment for Wet-Led Pubs

CSP is a one-off payment intended to provide support for wet-led pubs which are within areas which were subject to Local Covid Alert Level “High” – tier 2 restrictions, or Local Covid Alert Level “Very High” – Tier 3 restrictions during the period of 2nd December 2020 to 29th December 2020.

The grant will be a one-off payment of £1,000.

Qualifying Criteria

The grant will be payable to the ratepayer occupying a hereditament within the local rating list on 1st December 2020 and which meets the definition of a wet-led pub.

For the purposes of the grant a wet-led pub is:

- a) Open to the general public; and
- b) Allows free entry other than when occasional entertainment is provided; and
- c) Allows drinking without requiring food to be purchased; and
- d) Permits drinks to be purchased at a bar.

A pub will exclude, restaurants, cafes, nightclubs, hotels, snack bars, guesthouses, boarding houses, sporting venues, music venues, festival sites, theatres, museums, exhibition halls, cinemas, concert halls and casinos.

The list of exclusions is not exhaustive, and each case must be determined in line with the definition of a wet-led pub.

Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment

CLB is an additional grant which will be made available to businesses which are required to closed due the national lockdown from 5th January 2020.

The payment will be in addition to the LRSG (Closed) addendum 5th January scheme.

Qualifying Criteria

Eligibility for CLB is the same as LRSG (Closed) addendum 5th January.

To be eligible for a grant:

- The businesses must have been required by law to close.
- The business must have been established and trading on the day before the restrictions came into effect.
- The business must have been providing in-person services to customers from their business premises.
- The business must occupy premises appearing in the local rating list on the date of the commencement of local restrictions

Businesses which are required by law to close but remain open operating a click and collect or delivery service will be treated as closed for the purposes of grant.

Exclusions

The following exclusions are in place in relation to the grant.

- Businesses that can continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate effectively remotely – e.g. solicitors, accountants.
- Businesses that have chosen to close but are not required by law to do so.
- Businesses in administration, insolvent or where a striking off notice has been made are not eligible for grants.
- Businesses that have exhausted the state aid limits will not be eligible for grant.

Amount of Grant

The level of grant is summarised in the tabulation below:

Rateable Value	Amount of Grant
Up to £15,000	£4,000
£15,000 to £50,999	£6,000
£51,000 and over	£9,000

Business Support Grant Fund

BSGF was a scheme of support which provided grants to businesses that were impacted by the first national lockdown from March 2020. The scheme provided support to businesses which:

- On 11th March 2020 occupied premises which were entered into the Non-Domestic Rating list and for which the ratepayer was eligible for either Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

The amount of the grant was £10,000 and applications to the scheme were required to be made by 31st August 2020; payments under the scheme could be made up to 30th September 2020. The scheme has now closed for applications.

The authority is required to undertake post grant assurance work and this programme of checks is on-going. Grants which have been claimed fraudulently or have been paid in error will be recovered in full.

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant

RHLG was a scheme of support which provided grants to businesses that were impacted by the first national lockdown from March 2020. The scheme provided support to businesses which:

- On 11th March 2020 occupied premises which were entered into the Non-Domestic Rating list and for which the ratepayer would have been eligible for expanded retail discount had the rules in place from 1st April 2020 applied at that date.

The amount of grant was:

- £10,000 for properties with a rateable value of up to £15,000; or
- £25,000 for properties with a rateable value of £15,001 to £50,999

The scheme closed for applications on 31st August 2020 and all grants were required to be paid by 30th September 2020.

The authority is required to undertake post grant assurance work and this programme of checks is on-going. Grant which have been claimed fraudulently or have been paid in error will be recovered in full.

Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund

LADGF is a discretionary grant scheme which is intended to provide support to businesses which were in-eligible for the BSGF and RHLG schemes either because they:

- a) Occupied premises which were not included within the local Non-Domestic Rating list; or
- b) Were ineligible for a relevant relief.

Local Authorities were able to develop their own schemes for payment of grants however, Government requested that priority was given to certain types of business. For the scheme adopted in Redditch the Government' priority businesses were treated as band A businesses and were paid in priority to other applicants.

Redditch adopted a scheme which provided grants of £25,000, £10,000 or amounts of less than £5,000. The amount of grant provided was determined by the fixed property costs which the business faced.

The scheme applied in Redditch provided support to businesses in priority groups, all Band A businesses were assessed and awarded grants, and then awards were made to Band B businesses, and then Band C, after which point grants were made to non-priority businesses.

The relevant businesses in each band were:

Band A

Businesses occupying shared offices or shared business spaces.

Charities occupying one small property in England and excluded from Small Business Rates Relief

Small Bed and Breakfast which pay Council Tax and not Non-Domestic Rates.

Regular Market Traders which occupy a market pitch or stall which is not entered into the rating list.

Band B

Businesses within the Events and Exhibitions Sector

Businesses within the Travel and Leisure Sectors

Band C

Large Pubs, Gyms and Children's Centres which were excluded from expanded retail discount

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Supply Chain Businesses.

The application process for LADGF was open from 15th June 2020 to 3rd July 2020