



Business Resilience Grant 2 Guidance

As part of the County Council's continued response to the Covid19 pandemic and the support to the local economy and businesses, as restrictions begin to be lifted a grant is being provided to certain Northumberland businesses, which have remained open but continue to face a significant reduction in footfall, trading restrictions or supply chain disruption.

The grant will be available to businesses, which have a rateable value* within the business rates system, which have not already received support through the Restart Grants or Additional Restriction Grants (with the exception of BRG) and continue to have commercial on-going fixed property costs.

As with the earlier Business Resilience Grant scheme BRG2 will also include certain mobile and homebased businesses, which have been impacted by local and national restrictions, have not already received Restart Grants or Additional Restriction Grants (with the exception of BRG) and continue to have on-going fixed costs.

This Business Resilience Grant 2 (BRG2) scheme will run from 5 May 2021 to midnight on 2 June 2021.

A finite level of funding is available for the Business Resilience Grant 2 therefore the scheme will have a review point and may close earlier than the advertised date if demand is high.

*With the exception of home-based and mobile businesses

Scope of the Business Resilience Grant

Who can apply?

The BRG2 is aimed at Northumberland based businesses, which have commercial premises with a rateable value within the Northumberland County Council's business

rates system* and which have remained open but have been severely impacted by local and national restrictions, including, but not exclusively, through reductions in footfall and visitor numbers, trading restrictions or supply chain disruption.

As with the previous BRG scheme Northumberland County Council is including support for certain home-based and mobile businesses, which have been severely impacted by local and national restrictions. Businesses which operate within the hospitality, accommodation and leisure industries or its supply chain, or those that deliver in-person face-to-face services will be eligible to apply for BRG2. Approved Driving Instructors are able to apply for BRG2. Home-based and mobile businesses must be able to demonstrate they continue to have on-going fixed costs associated with running their business and have not been able to adapt to trade successfully online.

All businesses must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Based in Northumberland
- Have premises with a rateable value within Northumberland County Council's business rates system* (except in the case of eligible home-based businesses)
- Demonstrate a minimum of £200 per month (£2,400 per annum) of commercial, on-going fixed property costs* (except in the case of eligible home-based businesses)
- All businesses must demonstrate they were severely impacted by local and / or national restrictions
- All business must demonstrate they were trading on 1 April 2021. For the purposes of this grant scheme, a business is considered to be trading if it is engaged in business activity. This should be interpreted as carrying on a trade or profession or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover, for example managing accounts, preparing for reopening, planning and implementing COVID-safe measures, have staff on furlough or trading online.
- Businesses must not have received a Local Restrictions Support Grant, Restart Grant or Additional Restrictions Grant (with the exception of BRG).
- Businesses must not be eligible for a grant under the Local Restrictions Support Grant, Restart Grant or Additional Restrictions Grant (with the exception of BRG)
- 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 that, were they to receive grant payments under this scheme, breach State Aid or Subsidy Control rules are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

Home-based and mobile businesses must also satisfy the following criteria:

- Home-based and mobile businesses must be able to demonstrate non-domestic fixed costs of at least £100 per month integral to the running of their business
- Businesses must operate within the hospitality, accommodation and leisure sectors or its supply chain or provide in-person face-to-face services which have been impacted by restrictions
- Driving Instructors must be Approved Driving Instructors, registered with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)
- The business must provide the majority of the applicant's income

*excluding homebased / mobile businesses.

Grant Awards

The grant award is a one-off payment and will be made based on the Rateable Value (RV) of the business premises. For home-based and mobile businesses, the grant value will be made based on the level of evidenced fixed non-domestic running costs integral to the running of the business. The below values may change if there is high demand for the scheme.

Rateable Value	Grant
Home-based & Mobile businesses – fixed running costs between £100 - £200 per month	£1,000
Home-based & Mobile businesses - fixed running costs £200 and above per month	£2,500
£15,000 and under	£2,500
Above £15,000 – under £51,000	£5,000
£51,000 and above	£10,000

Application Process

An online application process will be made available on the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/businessgrants. Applicants will have to supply information and complete a declaration. Applications must be made by 2 June 2021.

Queries regarding this scheme can be addressed to the County Council at the following dedicated email address: businesshub@northumberland.gov.uk

Businesses can submit an application for each eligible business property that they operate from within Northumberland. Each property requires a separate application. Some businesses may, therefore, receive more than one grant payment. A successful

application for one property does not guarantee the same business a successful application for any additional properties.

Evidence Required to Support the Application

Businesses are required to submit the following evidence to support their application:

- The address of the business property
- Bank statement to prove the business was operating on relevant dates
- For Business Rated Businesses the latest NNDR statement from Northumberland County Council (even if “Nil” payable) showing the business rates reference number
- Evidence demonstrating a minimum of £200 per month (£2,400 per annum) of commercial, on-going fixed property costs (e.g. current legible copy of signed premises’ lease, licence or other formal rental agreement, or commercial mortgage clearly showing the rental cost)*
- For homebased and mobile businesses evidence of on-going non domestic fixed costs integral to running the business (e.g. vehicle or equipment lease agreements, trade association membership costs, licences or other formal agreements, website costs, commercial insurance costs, or tax returns demonstrating business related costs)
- Approved Driving Instructors must include a copy of their current DVSA ADI registration
- For homebased and mobile businesses a declaration that the business provides the majority of the applicant's income
- For home-based and mobile businesses a declaration that any vehicle costs being included as evidence of fixed running costs is essential to work and declared for business use for insurance purposes.
- Narrative of how they have been “severely impacted” by local and / or national restrictions due to COVID-19.

*excluding homebased / mobile businesses

This will be part of the online application process.

Northumberland County Council may require additional evidence to the above.

Variation to the fund

The Council reserves the right to close or vary the terms of the schemes at any time, and without notice, should it be necessary to do so.

Appeals

Applicants whose applications are rejected may request a review. The review will be carried out by an officer who was not involved in the original decision. The decision of the review is final. Details about how to request a review will be provided to every applicant whose application is rejected. Requests for Review without detailed reasoning will not be accepted.

Managing the risk of fraud

Neither the Government nor Northumberland County Council will accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

It is important that applicants ensure that they provide accurate bank details for grant payments and that these relate to the business concerned

Will these grant schemes be subject to tax?

Grant income received by a business is taxable. The ARG Restart Grant will need to be included as income in the tax return of the business. Only businesses that make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.