



Business Resilience Grant Guidance

UPDATED TO INCLUDE SOME MOBILE & HOMEBASED BUSINESSES

As part of the County Council's response to the Covid19 pandemic and the support to the local economy and businesses, a grant is being provided to certain Northumberland businesses, which have remained open but which are facing 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 Local Restriction Support Grants or Additional Restriction Grants and continue to have commercial on-going fixed property costs.

The Business Resilience Grant is being extended to include certain mobile and homebased businesses, which have been impacted by local and national restrictions, have not already received Local Restriction Support Grants or Additional Restriction Grants and continue to have on-going fixed costs.

This Business Resilience Grant (BRG) scheme will run from 26 February 2021 to midnight on Friday 30 April 2021.

A finite level of funding is available for the Business Resilience Grant 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 BRG 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.

Northumberland County Council is extending BRG to 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 BRG. Approved Driving Instructors are able to apply for BRG. 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 18 September 2020
- Have not received a Local Restrictions Support Grant or Additional Restrictions Grant whether Open or Closed
- Are not eligible for a grant under the Local Restrictions Support Grant or Additional Restrictions Grants whether Open or Closed
- 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 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

This BRG funding scheme must be applied for by means of an online application form, available on Northumberland County Council's website, which can be accessed [here](#) .

The online form guides businesses through the application process and prompts applicants for the information required, as well as any supporting documents needed (see 'Evidence to support application' below).

All applicants will be required to demonstrate their business income has been "severely impacted" by local or national Covid19 restrictions as part of the application process. The applicant must make a declaration regarding this, which can be substantiated with evidence. The Council may write to ask for additional supporting documentation where necessary.

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. Subsidy Control (formerly “State Aid”) rules will apply to single and multiple applications.

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

There is no appeal process. Details about how to request a review will be provided to every applicant whose application is rejected. Applicants whose applications are rejected may request a review but must provide clear reasoned statement with supporting evidence as to why they disagree with the rejection. The review will be carried out by an officer who was not involved in the original decision. The decision of the review is final. 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.

State Aid (Subsidy Control)

The EU State aid rules no longer apply to subsidies granted in the UK following the end of the transition period on 31st December 2020. The United Kingdom remains bound by its international commitments, including subsidy control obligations set out in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the EU.

Local Authorities can still pay subsidies under previously approved schemes as these will be in line with the Principles set out in Article 3.2(3), Chapter Three of Title XI of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). This includes subsidies related to COVID-19 that have previously been given under the State aid Temporary Framework. The State aid Temporary Framework provisions set out in previous guidance can still be applied to these schemes until further guidance on subsidy control is issued by the

Government Department BEIS which may vary the terms of these schemes or suspend or close the schemes with immediate effect, without notice and at any time.

Northumberland County Council accordingly may vary the terms of this BRG scheme or suspend or close the scheme with immediate effect, without notice and at any time.

Grant awards must not exceed the aid limits as permitted under de Minimis / Article 3.2(4), Chapter Three of Title XI of the TCA and Covid-19 State aid Temporary Framework. The rules are fully explained in the government state aid guidance.

If the grant is to be provided under De Minimis / Article 3.2(4), Chapter Three of Title XI of the TCA Applicants will be required to declare any other aid received and / or approved in the last 3 years under either de minimis or Article 3.2(4), Chapter Three of Title XI of the TCA.

If the grant is to be provided under the Temporary Framework the maximum aid thresholds set out therein must be adhered to namely €800,000 from all aid sources. Applicants will be required to declare all aid received and / or approved to date under the Temporary Framework. In the event applicants have reached both the maximum permitted under de minimis / Article 3.2(4), Chapter Three of Title XI of the TCA and the Temporary Framework they should contact NCC.