



## **Grant Support for Larger Hospitality, Accommodation and Leisure Businesses**

Northumberland County Council is aware that Hospitality, Accommodation and Leisure businesses have been amongst the most significantly affected as a result of Covid19 local and national restrictions.

As a result of this and recognising that larger Hospitality, Accommodation and Leisure (HAL) businesses have continued to have significant overheads to maintain over this time of disruption the Council is offering an additional grant of up to £15,000 to larger HAL businesses which have received Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRS) Closed.

The funding for this support is from the Council's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).

The one-off grant payment will be made to HAL businesses which have a Ratable Value of £51,000 or over and have received Local Restrictions Support Grant.

### **Who can apply?**

Businesses that are eligible for this grant will be contacted directly with a short application form to complete to apply for the grant.

### **Grant Awards**

The grant award is a one-off payment of up to £15,000.

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 business name, address of the business property and company registration number (as registered with Companies House where appropriate)
- Business Rates Account No.
- Bank Account Details
- Date the business was established
- Number of employees
- A declaration that the business continues to be severely impacted by local and / or national restrictions
- Subsidy Control (formally State Aid) declaration
- Administration, insolvent or subject to a striking-off notice declaration

Exclusions:

- 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.

Northumberland County Council may require additional evidence to the above.

Queries regarding this scheme can be addressed to the County Council at the following dedicated email address: [covidgrants@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:covidgrants@northumberland.gov.uk)

## **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.