

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS SUPPORT POLICY

1. **Additional Business Support** is a grant intended for businesses that have been excluded from existing or previous national and local Covid-19 financial support schemes; and/or where income, including financial support, has been insufficient to cover business costs.
2. To qualify as an **Eligible Business** that may receive **Additional Business Support**, the business must meet the criteria set out in **2.1** to **2.4** below; and most not be excluded by **2.5** or **2.6** below.
 - 2.1 To qualify as an Eligible Business that may receive Additional Business Support, the business must **self-certify** that each of the criteria set out below is met:
 - a) They were trading on 1st January 2020, prior to the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic
 - b) The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected their business e.g. reductions to customer numbers/sale numbers and a consequential erosion to their cashflow position such that meeting day to day working capital requirements has become unaffordable and unsustainable
 - c) Their business is located within Essex (no requirement to be operating from a rateable premises).
 - d) They have been excluded from accessing other Covid-19 financial support schemes or where income, including financial support has been insufficient to cover fixed costs.
 - 2.2 Based upon the requirement contained in 2.1 – that a business is only eligible if has been excluded from existing or previous national and local Covid-19 financial support schemes - applicants must fall into at least one of the two 2 categories below to be eligible to receive an Additional Business Support:
 - a) Newly self-employed who set up a business after 6th April 2019, who have not been able to receive support as part of the Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
 - b) Limited company directors who are not located in rateable premises and who cannot furlough themselves and continue to work to save their business
 - 2.3 To qualify as an Eligible Business that may receive Additional Business Support the business must **self-certify** it has all up-to-date and relevant certificate(s) conferring compliance with laws and regulations relevant to its trade (for example a food hygiene certificate, a licence to sell alcohol, permission to operate a pavement seating area, trading authority);
 - 2.4 That the business is ensuring, and will continue to ensure, compliance with all COVID-19 regulations and guidance.

2.5 Additional Business Support shall not be made available to businesses that were in administration, insolvent, or where a strike-off notice had been made on or before the date that the business applied to receive a payment.

2.6 Excluded are businesses that operate in the following sectors:

Businesses that primarily operate in any of the following sectors: agriculture forestry or fishing; mining or quarrying; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply or sewerage; construction; financial and insurance activities; information and communication activities; real estate activities; education; or social work activities. Businesses primarily operating in manufacturing will only be eligible where it is demonstrated that supplying aviation, hospitality, leisure or accommodation businesses provides a significant proportion of their overall revenue.

2.7 No grant will be made if, in doing so, this would result in the level of subsidy limits contained in the **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)** being exceeded.

2.8 The amounts awarded to Eligible Businesses will be based on the size of that. The Council shall therefore provide Additional Business Support to Eligible Businesses not exceeding the following thresholds:

a) Those businesses that fall into category a) and b) in paragraph 2 above £1,000

b) Ad-hoc, cases treated on their own merits -such a Transport for London taxi drivers - £500 (in keeping with the Council's ARG policy on taxi-drivers)

2.9 Upon the total funding allocation from Essex County Council for Additional Business Support being used up, no further payments will be made

3. Additional Business Support grants are awarded on the basis of the applicant self-certifying that the business qualifies for the scheme under the criteria set out **2.1** to **2.4** above; and that the business is not excluded from the scheme by **2.5** to **2.7** above. Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council reserve the right to check the validity of this self-certification as set out in 3.1 -3.3 below.

3.1 Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council reserve the right to undertake checks of the Additional Business Support expenditure.

3.2 Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council may, jointly or individually: undertake random spot checks of applications that were successful - and which received an Additional Business Support grant - to verify that this grant was awarded according to the eligibility criteria, as contained in this policy.

3.3 In the case of it subsequently arising that the claim was **not** for an Eligible Business - or was **not** used for the Grant purpose - the grant will be subject to repayment by the recipient.

4. No grants under the Additional Business Support Scheme shall be paid after **1 July 2021**