

East Cambridgeshire District Council Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme Round 9

On 21 December 2021, the Government announced that a further £102 million would be made available for Local Authorities, through a top-up to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) to support businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions and the rise of the Omicron variant.

The ARG scheme remains discretionary. Local Authorities continue to have the freedom to determine the eligibility criteria for these grants.

East Cambridgeshire's ARG top-up allocation is £171,696.12. £64,036.00 of this has been distributed to businesses via the ARG Round 8 scheme, £107,660.12 remains unallocated. This must be paid to businesses by 31 March 2022 or be returned to Government. A further ARG scheme for these business sectors will be delivered using the remaining funding.

The remaining ARG funding will be used to provide additional grant support for those businesses impacted by the rise of the Omicron variant.

Grants will be paid to those eligible businesses that have received an Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

Grants will be allocated by the date that a business's Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant application was received by the Council. Independent businesses will be prioritised over national businesses and community facilities.

Eligible businesses

The ARG Round 9 scheme is for hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) ratings list only.

Hospitality: For the purposes of this scheme, a hospitality business can be defined as a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink:

- Businesses offering in-person food and drink services to the general public.
- Businesses that provide food and/or drink to be consumed on the premises, including outdoors.

Leisure: For the purposes of this scheme, a leisure business can be defined as a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out.

- Businesses that may provide in-person intangible experiences in addition to goods.
- Businesses that may rely on seasonal labour.
- Businesses that may assume particular public safety responsibilities.
- Businesses that may operate with irregular hours through day, night and weekends.

Accommodation: For the purposes of this scheme, an accommodation business can be defined as a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel or other purposes:

- Businesses that provide accommodation for 'away from home' stays for work or leisure purposes.
- Businesses that provide accommodation for short-term leisure and holiday purposes.

Support type	Types of business
Hospitality	Food courts Public houses/pub restaurants Restaurants Roadside restaurants Wine bars Cafés
Leisure	Casinos and gambling clubs Cinemas Museums and art galleries Stately homes & historic houses Theatres Zoos & safari parks Amusement parks Wedding venues Events venues Night clubs & discotheques Arenas Concert halls Tourist attractions Theme parks Amusement arcades Soft play centres or areas Indoor riding centres Clubs & institutions Village halls & scout huts, cadet huts, etc.
Accommodation	Caravan parks Caravan sites and pitches Chalet parks Coaching inns Country house hotels Guest houses Hostels Hotels Lodge Holiday apartments, Cottages or bungalows Campsites Boarding houses Canal boats or other vessels B&Bs Catered holiday homes Holiday homes

Businesses must also:

- Be based in England and operate in East Cambridgeshire.
- Have a business rates account.

- Have been trading on 30 December 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.

Businesses excluded from the fund:

- Businesses that have already received grant payments that equal the maximum permitted levels of subsidy will not be eligible to receive funding.
- Businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made, are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
- Businesses that are not within the ratings system will not be eligible to receive funding under this scheme.
- The definition of a hospitality business excludes food kiosks and businesses whose main service (generating 50% or more of income) is a takeaway.
- The definition of a leisure business excludes all retail businesses, coach tour operators, and tour operators.
- The definition of an accommodation business excludes private dwellings, education accommodation, residential homes, care homes, residential family centres and beach huts.

Subsidy Allowance

There are three subsidy allowances for the COVID-19 Business Grant Schemes:

- Small Amounts of Financial Assistance Allowance – you're allowed up to £335,000 (subject to exchange rates) over any period of 3 years.
- COVID-19 Business Grant Allowance – you're allowed up to £1,900,000.
- COVID-19 Business Grant Special Allowance - if you have reached your limits under the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance Allowance and COVID-19 Business Grant Allowance, you may be able to access a further allowance of funding under these scheme rules of up to £10,000,000, provided certain conditions are met.

For more information about COVID-19 Business Grant Subsidy Allowances, please visit https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044354/omicron-hospitality-and-leisure-grant-guidance.pdf

How to apply

The Council will automatically pay this grant to eligible businesses who have previously successfully applied for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

The grant is payable to the person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the property on 30 December 2021.

Where East Cambridgeshire District Council has reason to believe that the information held about the ratepayer on 30 December 2021 is inaccurate, the council may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.

Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after 30 December 2021 will not be taken into account.

Businesses whose details have changed, or business circumstances have changed (for example, the business has permanently closed, has gone into administration, become insolvent or had a striking-off notice, or the business has reached Subsidy Allowance limits), should email details to covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk or telephone 01353 665555

How much funding will be provided to businesses?

This is a one-off grant.

- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on 30 December 2021 will receive a payment of £533.
- Businesses with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 30 December 2021 will receive a payment of £800.
- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over on 30 December 2021 will receive a payment of £1,200.

Managing the risk of fraud

The Council will not accept deliberate manipulation or fraud and any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money may face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error. All information is subject to internal and external audit checks.

Sharing Information

East Cambridgeshire District Council will share data for efficient system administration and to protect the Public Purse, subject to the GDPR. This will include sharing data with Anglia Revenues Partnership, Central Government and other Local Authorities. Grant recipients may be contacted for research purposes, and their data will be shared with BEIS for research and evaluation purposes.

By applying for an Additional Restrictions Grant all applicants give authority to East Cambridgeshire District Council to share data for efficient system administration and to protect the Public Purse, subject to the GDPR. This will include sharing data with Anglia Revenues Partnership, Central Government and other Local Authorities. Grant recipients may be contacted for research purposes, and their data will be shared with BEIS for research and evaluation purposes.

Grant income

Grant income received by a business is taxable, therefore funding paid under the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme will be subject to tax. Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.