

# LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

## OMICRON HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE

### GRANT POLICY (January 2022)

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Government is providing funding to allow local authorities to support hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses, in recognition that the rise of the Omicron variant means that some businesses are likely to struggle.
- 1.2 The grant payments to businesses are determined by the Government and local authorities will be reimbursed the actual cost of grants paid to eligible businesses.
- 1.3 Eligible businesses can get one grant for each eligible property on which the business pays rates.
- 1.4 Those eligible for a grant will receive a one-off grant of up to £6,000 for each eligible business premise.
- 1.5 Leicester City Council therefore invites applications from hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses.
- 1.6 Businesses can choose to spend the grants as they wish. The money does not need to be repaid. The Government expects that many businesses will use the grants to cover high fixed property-related costs.

#### 2. Who will benefit from this scheme?

- 2.1 Businesses that offer in-person services, whose main service and activity takes place in fixed rate-pay premises in the hospitality, leisure & accommodation sectors.
- 2.2 The definitions of eligible businesses is set out on the webpage below:  
<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/coronavirus/advice-and-support-for-businesses/coronavirus-business-support-grant-funding/omicron-hospitality-and-leisure-grant/>
- 2.3 Where a business operates mixed premises and only part of the business is defined as meeting the requirement of being within the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors then the main service will be the category which constitutes 50% or more of the overall income.

- 2.4 Businesses must be the ratepayer on the Council's records at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- 2.5 Businesses must have been trading on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to be eligible to receive funding under the scheme.
- 2.6 Businesses that are not the ratepayer (for example, their landlord pays the rates to the Council) are not eligible for grants from this scheme, under Government rules.

### 3 Other Qualifying Conditions

- 3.1 Businesses must not be in administration, insolvent or subject to a striking-off notice at the time of applying or receiving a grant.
- 3.2 Businesses that have already received grant payments must ensure that they have not breached the maximum permitted under the UK subsidy allowance. Details on subsidy allowances can be found on the link below:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-omicron-hospitality-and-leisure-grant#subsidy-allowance>  
Businesses in any doubt should take their own legal advice.
- 3.3 Businesses may apply for this fund regardless of any other national or local COVID-19 grants or loans already received.

### 4 Amount of each business grant

- 4.1 The grant levels are set by the Government:
  - For properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or less on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021, will receive grants of £2,667.
  - For properties with a rateable value above £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021, will received grants of £4,000.
  - For properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or above on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021, will receive grants of £6,000.

### 5 Applying for a grant

- 5.1 Businesses must meet the criteria in section 2.
- 5.2 Applications should be made as soon as possible. The final closing date for applications is the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

- 5.3 Businesses must tell the Council of any changes in circumstances that might affect eligibility for grant payments. Failure to do this could lead to grants being clawed back.
- 5.4 Applications should be made online. Businesses will be required to provide information to demonstrate eligibility, bank account details, demonstrate UK subsidy rules allowance compliance and to prevent fraud and error.
- 5.5 Any data received may be shared with Government. Details on the BEIS privacy notice, setting out how BEIS will handle personal data across all COVID 19 business grants schemes can be found on the link below:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-grant-schemes-privacy-notice/covid-19-grant-schemes-privacy-notice>
- 5.6 If a grant is refused then clarification of the reasons for refusal can be sought via the following email:  
[c19discretionarygrant@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:c19discretionarygrant@leicester.gov.uk)
- 6 Will these grant schemes be subject to tax?
- 6.1 Grant income received by a business is taxable. Therefore, funding paid under this scheme will be subject to tax.
- 6.2 Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.
- 7 Managing the risk of fraud
- 7.1 The government and the council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud. 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.
- 7.2 The Government's grants management and counter fraud functions provide local authorities with access to 'Spotlight', a digital assurance tool. This tool will also assist the Council with pre and post payments assurance, including identification of high-risk payments. There will also be joint working across councils and government departments in preventing fraud.
- 7.3 The Council also reserves the right to use any details submitted by businesses to check against national records and databases to highlight any potentially fraudulent activity.
- 7.4 The council may withhold all or part of any grant payment where there is reason to believe that the eligibility conditions have not been met.
- 8 Appeals

8.1 There is no right to appeal, and the decision of the Council is final. The Council's interpretation of this document is at its own discretion and it will be the final arbiter of the definitions contained within this policy.

9 Policy Review

9.1 This policy has been written in line with Government guidance. It will be subject to dynamic review as circumstances dictate and in line with future clarifications and changes that may be announced by the Government.

*Leicester City Council  
Finance Division 21/01/2022*