

Government grants and support for businesses

The following is a brief overview of the support for businesses and self-employed.

I hope it is of some help.

Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB)

There are 3 versions of this grant: Open, Closed and Sector. While in a national lockdown it is the 'Closed' version that is relevant (see diagram in the appendix to this document). The following is about the Closed version.

This grant is for businesses paying business rates and is now available from SHDC.

Applications should be submitted here: <https://southhams.gov.uk/LRSB>

Note: there will be no letter of invitation sent out.

To be eligible you need satisfy these conditions:

1. Occupy and be liable for business rates on a property that appears in the Local Rating List on 4 November 2020
2. Have been trading on 4 November 2020
3. Have been open as usual on 4 November 2020 and providing in-person services to customers from their premises; and
4. Mandated to close from 5 November 2020 to visiting members of the public for a consecutive period of no less than 28 days as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1994.

There is more information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-local-restrictions-support-grant>

The amount awarded will depend on the rateable value of the business and will be £1,334, £2,000, or £3,000.

Once approved LRSB will provide a rolling 28-day grant, lasting as long as the national restrictions apply.

Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis. SHDC has been allocated £3.9m to disburse, based on government's assessment of the number of business.

Businesses from the hospitality industry, including pubs, restaurants, and holiday accommodation are included in the list of those eligible for the grant. Those which provide personal care, such as hairdressers, beauty salons, and many businesses in the leisure industry such as gyms, swimming pools, and soft play centres are also on the list.

If a business (included in the list) is substantially closed but still able to offer some click and collect or take-away service, it is still eligible for this business support grant.

A full list of all the businesses that were instructed to close, and those on the exemption list can be found on the Government's business advice pages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/closing-certain-businesses-and-venues-in-england>

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

This is a discretionary grant to support business which are not legally required to close, but are affected by restrictions. For businesses that can evidence a down turn related to lock down.

The criteria are yet to be finalised by SHDC as there is an attempt to have a Devon wide approach for consistency, but the criteria are likely to be similar to the previous discretionary grant.

Applications for ARG are not yet open but will be in a week or so. Please check the SHDC web site to keep up to date if you wish to apply.

SHDC has been allocated £1.7M to disburse. This money is to last until March 2022 and it is currently the case that no further funding would be available from government if there was a continued or subsequent lock down.

The grant is a one-off grant and is likely to be fixed at £934 (to match LRSG open). Funding will be allowed to include business support measures, such as specific training.

Job Retention Scheme (JRS)

The Job Retention Scheme was to be replaced by the Job Support Scheme but instead the JRS has been extended to allow staff to be furloughed and for employers to claim support for 80% of wages paid.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/furlough-scheme-extended-and-further-economic-support-announced>

Job Retention Bonus

The Job Retention Bonus is a £1,000 one-off taxable payment to you (the employer), for each eligible employee that you furloughed and kept continuously employed until 31 January 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-can-claim-the-job-retention-bonus-from-15-february-2021>

Deferred VAT Payments

You may be able to defer VAT payments into 2021:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Statutory Sick Pay

Employers can reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. This scheme will cover up to 2 weeks of SSP for every eligible employee.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Business Rates Relief for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-retail-hospitality-or-leisure-business-is-eligible-for-business-rates-relief-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund

This grant is still available if not already claimed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-business-support-grant-funding-guidance-for-businesses>

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

This scheme has been extended to April 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/self-employment-income-support-scheme-grant-extension/self-employment-income-support-scheme-grant-extension>

Other Resources

General Business

Government Business Support Finder

<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>

The government Business Support Helpline:

Business Support Helpline (England)

Telephone: 0300 456 3565

Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm

ACAS

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Government guidance for employers and businesses:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

Government measures announced to support businesses:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

South Hams District Council

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/businesscovid19>

General information from South Hams District Council can be found here:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/6529/Coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice>

Self-Employed

Citizens Advice – Self-Employed

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/coronavirus-if-youre-self-employed/>

Money Saving Expert – Martin Lewis

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/04/self-employed-help-coronavirus/>

Check your rights concerning being laid off or put on short time working:

<https://www.gov.uk/lay-offs-short-timeworking>

Universal Credit

See if you are eligible for Universal Credit:

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

Citizens Advice are a source of information concerning eligibility for all benefits:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Information concerning the closure of schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Advice from Devon County Council:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/>

Council Tax

You can apply for a Council Tax Reduction:

Note: always let SHDC know your circumstances ... it can make a big difference to CTR

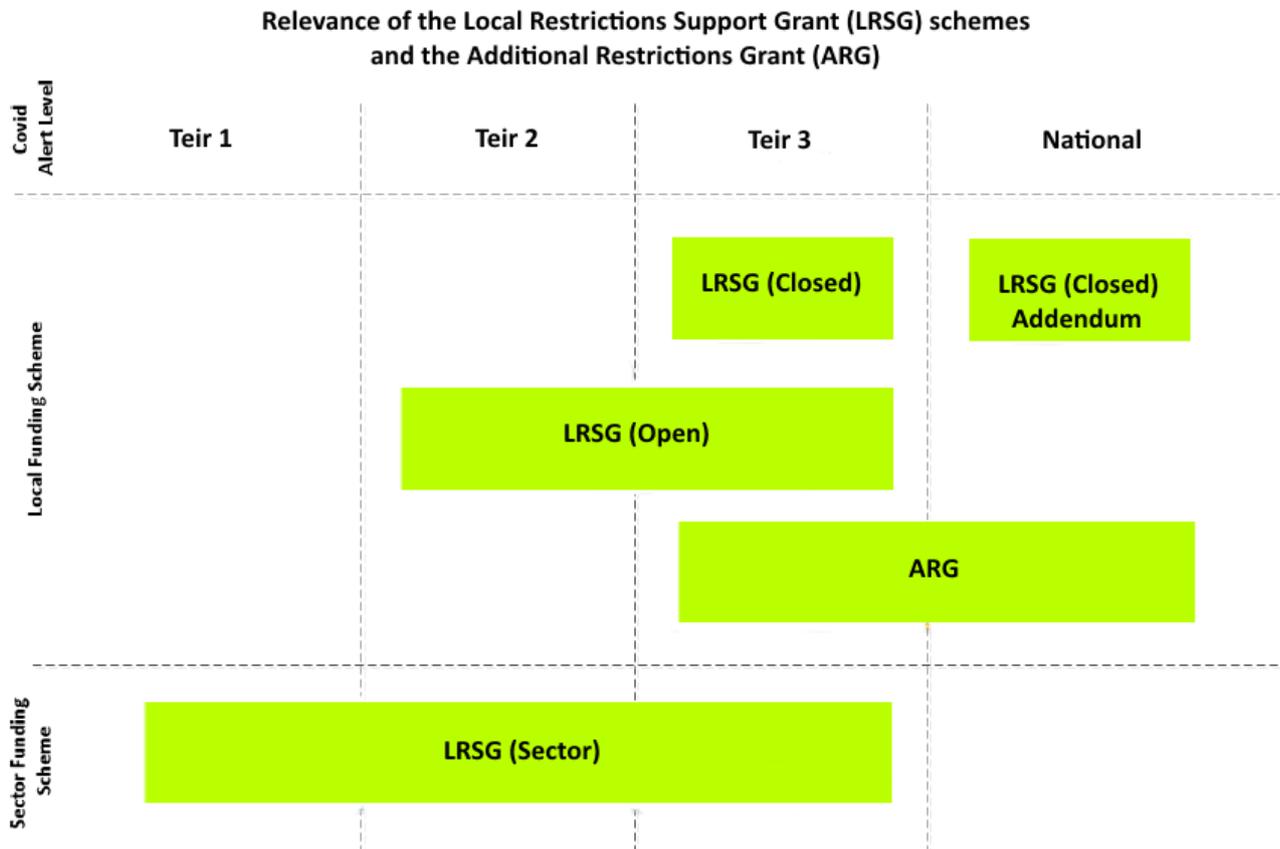
<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/6643/Low-Income-Council-Tax-Reduction>

SHDC Exceptional Hardship Fund:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/DHP>

Appendix – Support grant variants and their scope.

There are several variants of the business support schemes and it is important to understand their scope depending on the restriction that may be in place. At the time of writing we are in a national lockdown so from the diagram below it can be seen that only LRSG (Closed) and ARG are relevant.



Tiered Lockdowns

Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All businesses and venues not shut by current law can continue to operate 10pm curfew on pubs and restaurants Schools, universities and places of worship remain open Wedding and funerals can go ahead subject to restrictions Gyms and Leisure centres stay open Rule of 6 indoors and outdoors
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 1 plus ... Must not mix with other households or bubbles indoors Reduce number of journeys where possible
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 2 plus ... Must not mix with other households or bubbles indoors or outdoors Avoid travelling outside of local area Pubs and Bars must close – unless they serve main meals. Wedding receptions not allowed Avoid overnight stay in another part of UK <i>Local Authority to decide on whether to close gyms, leisure centres and other businesses.</i>

