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Thousands of pounds of grants available for East Devon businesses

Business Grants

Grants are available for businesses which have been legally required to close OR financially impacted during the Coronavirus national and local restrictions. Many of the grants close on **31st March 2021, so please review the table below urgently**, to identify which grants you may be eligible for.

Businesses which received an LRSG grant for the national restrictions have received an access code for each period, so they can complete a much shorter form. If you have not received an access code you can still claim but will need to complete the full form. In addition, there is a one-off top up grant (called CBLP) for business in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors.

Please make sure you apply for the each time period. Check back to this page regularly or sign up for the [East Devon business update](#) to find out when grants are live.

The business rates team is not administering the Additional Restriction Grants. If you have a question about the Additional Restrictions Grant please email arg@eastdevon.gov.uk

Period of restrictions	Scheme	If your business is:	Status
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<p>National restrictions: From 5th Jan - 31st March 2021</p>	<p>Apply for both CBLP and LRSG (closed) Addendum schemes Read gov.uk guidance for Closed Business Lockdown Payment (CBLP) - one off top up payment between £4-9k AND Read gov.uk guidance for Local Restrictions Support Grants (closed) Addendum - between £2-4.5k and £2-4.7k</p>	<p>*Legally forced to close by Government *Registered for business rates *In the leisure, hospitality and non-essential retail sector where you depend upon providing in-person services. Read more *Excludes: businesses that are able to trade because they do not depend on providing in-person services from the premises & can operate their services remotely.</p>	<p>Form live. 5.1.21-15.2.21 LRSG scheme closes 31.3.21 CBLP scheme closes 31.3.21 16.2.21-31.3.21 LRSG scheme closes 31.5.21 Businesses which previously received a payment will be sent an access code to complete one short form. New applicants will need to complete the form.</p>
<p>Local restrictions - Tiers 2 and 3: From 2nd December 2020 to 4th January 2021</p>	<p>Local Restrictions Support Grants (open) V2 Payment between £1135-£2711 Read the guidance from gov.uk</p>	<p>*Severely impacted by Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions. Read more *In the leisure, hospitality and non-essential retail sector where you depend upon providing in-person services *Scheme also supports businesses in supply chain to non-essential retail, leisure and hospitality sector</p>	<p>Form live. Scheme closes 31.3.21</p>

		<p>*Registered for business rates OR *Non-ratepayers must provide evidence of fixed business costs of min £250 per month (premises, insurance, licence, etc).</p>	
<p>Local restrictions - Tiers 2 and 3: From 2nd December 2020 to 4th January 2021</p>	<p>Local Restrictions Support Grants (closed) V2 Payment between £1621-£3644</p>	<p>*Legally forced to close by Government (whilst in Tier 2, this mainly only applies to pubs who do not sell food). Read more Note. If you were forced to close when we moved to Tier 3, we will adjust your payment under the LRSG (Open) scheme so don't apply for the Closed scheme as well. *Registered for business rates</p>	<p>Form live. Scheme closes 31.3.21</p>
<p>Tier 2: From 2nd December to 30th December</p>	<p>Christmas Support Payment for Wet-led Pubs One-off £1k payment</p>	<p>*For pubs with sales of drinks more than 50% of trade *Registered for business rates</p>	<p>Scheme closed on 28th February 2021</p>

<p>National restrictions: 5th November to 1st December</p>	<p>Local Restrictions Support Grants (closed) Addendum</p>	<p>*Legally forced to close by Government. Read more</p> <p>*Registered for business rates</p> <p>*In the leisure, hospitality and non-essential sector where you depend upon providing in-person services. Read more</p>	<p>Form live. Scheme closes 31.3.21</p> <p>Businesses which received a grant for these national restrictions (5th November to 1st December) will receive an access code to complete one short form for the January scheme. You will not need to do a full application for the January restrictions payment.</p>
<p>National: 5th January to 15th February 2021</p>	<p>Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG)</p>	<p>*Legally forced to close by Government OR</p> <p>*Severely impacted by national restrictions (min 30% reduction in trade) and a min of £250 fixed business costs per month.</p> <p>*Not registered for business rates</p>	<p>Form live</p> <p>Scheme extended to allow more applications - open until further notice</p>
<p>National: Restart grants</p>	<p>Restart grants</p>	<p>A one-off cash grant of up to £18,000 for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym</p>	<p>Form not live.</p> <p>Further information will be provided once the government guidance has been</p>

		<p>businesses in England. Non-essential retail businesses will open first, so they will receive grants of up to £6,000 per premises. Hospitality and leisure businesses, including personal care and gyms, will open later, or be more impacted by restrictions when they do, so will be given grants of up to £18,000.</p>	<p>received for this scheme.</p>
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[Sign up for the East Devon business update](#) to receive the latest grant information.

More than £62m in grants paid to help East Devon businesses

To date East Devon District Council has paid more than £62m in grants to local businesses over the last 12 months, to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

Thousands of businesses have benefitted from the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) schemes.

“Council staff have been working to process grants as quickly as possible, because they offer a lifeline to many businesses. The grants team are working tirelessly. They have processed around 9,300 applications with more than 8,840 payments made which has presented a huge amount of work. When a new grant scheme is announced, we have to wait for Government guidance and the funding, to set up the new scheme online. This takes time and we thank businesses for their patience while the funds are processed and paid as fast as we can.” (EDDC Chief Executive)

The LRSG helps rate-paying businesses which were forced to close during periods of national restrictions since November – known as the LRSG (Closed) - and through the tiered restrictions with the LRSG (Open) scheme.

The LRSG payments vary depending on rateable value, with separate grant schemes to cover different time periods:

- National restrictions between 5 November to 4 December 2020
- Tiered restrictions between 5 December 2020 to 4 January 2021
- National restrictions between 5 January to 15 February 2021
- National restrictions between 16 February to 31 March 2021.

Some of these schemes come to an end on 31st March, so businesses which pay rates and were forced to close due to restrictions are encouraged to **urgently check the eligibility criteria to find out if they can make a claim.**

Businesses which weren't eligible for LRSG are able to apply for ARG if their **turnover** has been severely affected **by the national restrictions** and **they** can prove fixed business costs of at least £250 per month. Anyone who successfully applied for ARG for 5 January -15 February, **will** automatically get a **one off** top up payment of between £2,800 - £6,300. Plus these recipients will also automatically get a payment for the **remaining period of national restrictions from 16 February – 31 March** of between £1,468 - £3,300.

A new Restart Grant will be administered by the Council and more information on this will be available soon.

Businesses are urged to check the criteria carefully and read the frequently asked questions before emailing an enquiry. Due to high levels of demand, enquiries are dealt with in date order so there may be a delay in receiving a reply.

Leisure services funding: East Devon District Council writes to local MP's to lobby for extra Government support

On behalf of East Devon District Council (EDDC), the Council Leader has written to the 3 constituency MP's who cover the district to seek their support to lobby the Government for extra financial support for its leisure services. Unlike neighbouring councils who directly provide leisure services, East Devon have only been able to recover £280K of a £1.4m deficit created by the Covid-19 pandemic for its operator LED.

EDDC is joining a regional campaign of South West Councils who are lobbying their local MP's to request that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government change their national recovery fund criteria to fully compensate councils for these losses.

Virtual meetings

I wrote recently to say that it was hoped there was to be an extension to the legislation that allowed councils to hold meetings virtually. It has recently been indicated in a letter from Luke Hall MP, Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government that the government don't intend to extend this legislation beyond May. There has been cross-party concern about this and representatives from EDDC are writing to EDDC Chief Executive to express their concerns.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) said this:

We are extremely disappointed with this news, and are aware of concerns councils will have in not only conducting their usual business, but also for the wellbeing of councillors, staff and the public attending their meetings.

NALC chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, has [responded](#) to express her disappointment, as has the Local Government Association in their [statement](#).

The government has also [updated the guidance on the safe use of council buildings](#) following this confirmation, aimed at helping councils operate safely and securely, including using existing powers to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings deemed necessary. We are aware that some suggestions are largely suited to larger authorities, and we hope to issue further guidance to support our smaller councils in due course.

*A **12 week** [call for evidence](#) has also been launched about how remote meetings have been used to inform any potential future legislation regarding their use beyond the coronavirus pandemic. **I urge all our members to respond** to the consultation. NALC will be responding to this consultation and will be discussing this with other key stakeholders who have already been working with them on this issue.*

There is still a glimmer of hope...

Hertfordshire County Council, Lawyers in Local Government and Association of Democratic Service Officers (supported by NALC) are continuing their pursuit of a court judgement on whether remote meetings are possible under existing legislation. A declaration is expected by the end of April.

So at the 11th hour - remote meetings may still be possible, but all councils must have a contingency plan in place should that not come through.

Would you be interested in a car club scheme?

For those who don't want the costs of car ownership, Co Cars claim to be a realistic, affordable and flexible option and interest is being gauged on whether there is wider interest in East Devon for a car club scheme that is already operating successfully in Exeter. The cars can be hired for an hour or a day. Co Cars have organised a survey to gauge the level of interest in a car club scheme in the wider area of East Devon.

They are also interested in asking residents if they need an EV charging point close to where they live as many residents currently cannot charge an electric vehicle at home. The provider says their rapid charging network removes that barrier, making electric car use a reality for everyone, that is assuming of course you can afford an electric car in the first place.... Powered by renewables, the chargers can pump in 75 miles of charge in just 30 minutes. Here is a link to the survey about rapid charging points:

[Rapid Charging Exeter Survey \(typeform.com\)](#)

Or search 'Rapid Charging Exeter Survey' and follow the link.

A couple from the Honiton area have recently been banned from selling puppies and handed a life-time ban on owning dogs, prompting council warnings on buying puppies.

East Devon District Council (EDDC) has recently had a flurry of enquiries regarding the buying and selling puppies as well as complaints of alleged unlicensed breeders during lockdown. The authority has been contacted by residents from across the district, including from areas such as Exmouth, Exton, and Newton Poppleford and Whimble as well as further afield. This means the council's usual advice and warnings apply even more – residents must be careful when buying a puppy.

Government advice which has just been issued has confirmed that travelling to view a dog is not essential travel and all viewings should be by video.

If you are thinking of buying a puppy:

- Don't be rushed into buying. Have you researched the breed to ensure it is suitable for you and your family now and into the future as dogs live for many years?
- You should always ensure you check and see the mother with the puppies and confirm the birth date. For example, you can check the date data on a photo of the new-born pups, as it is illegal to sell a puppy until it is at least eight weeks old.
- Not all breeders are required to be licenced by a council but you should always check with the local authority before you breed puppies to sell. When buying from registered breeders you also have a reassurance they are inspected and regulated.
- Ask for proof of any vet checks, vaccinations (where applicable), microchipping, insurances, and/or pedigree papers.
- Check social media for any reviews or articles about the seller before committing to a purchase.
- Avoid cash sales and always get a receipt.

Organisations like The Dogs Trust and RSPCA have useful guides to buying along with Government advice <https://getyourpetsafely.campaign.gov.uk/>

If you do purchase a puppy, the council's advice is that you collect from the home address taking full Covid precautions when there rather than having the seller deliver.

If you have any concerns or wish to report possible illegal puppy sales please contact environmentalhealth@eastdevon.gov.uk or 01404 515616.

Adopt don't shop

Another option available to those looking to add a canine companion to their household is to adopt a rescue dog, rather than buy a puppy.

Every year, animal charities provide shelter to thousands of animals in need of good forever homes. By choosing adoption, you'll not only have the chance to make a friend for life, but you'll be giving an animal a second chance and helping support the causes that help animals in need.

Pets find themselves without a home for a range of reasons, through no fault of their own. These include animals surrendered by their previous owners, and sadly some who have suffered neglect or cruelty. By adopting an animal in need, you'll truly be giving a second chance to someone who needs it.

Most animal rescues also undertake health and behaviour assessments, desex, microchip and vaccinate the animals in their care. Any adoption fee you pay will also go towards helping other animals in need.

Hedgehog help

The much-loved hedgehog is in danger. Since 2000, numbers have tumbled by 50 per cent in rural areas and 30 per cent in urban ones. When did you last see one? There are now fewer than a million, yet in the 1950s, there were 36 million.

Urban hedgehogs face threats, too. Traditional gardens provide wonderful habitat, but pristine modern ones not so much. More cars lead to more deaths and construction often rips up existing habitat.

Hedgehog highways can really help. Hedgehogs roam up to 1¼ miles per night, and the aim is to connect gardens, via a 13cm hole in each fence, so they can wander in search of dinner. You can make your garden as hedgehog friendly as you want, but if they can't get in, it's a real shame. One of the main threats is lack of available habitat and habitat fragmentation. Dropped litter is also a hazard to hedgehogs not least rubber bands and discarded cups. Last year, a lethal slug pellet, Metaldehyde, was banned (from 2022), due in part to its danger to hedgehogs.

As well as a way to get in and out of your garden, you can also provide natural habitat or even provide a hedgehog house in your garden. If you want to feed them, do not put out milk or bread but offer catfood or specialist hedgehog food. Be careful where you site this - you do not want to encourage rats!

There are calls on the government to ensure all new-build housing includes hedgehog highways, which one developer stated would cost 50p per house. A number of major developers have signed up to this including Bovis and Barrats. This is something we should be insisting upon in the forthcoming Local Plan for new housing, along with other measures such as bee bricks and bird/swift bricks which are all designed to encourage and support our wildlife.

There is more information on the Hedghog Street website

[Home - Hedgehog Street](#)

Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) Camera data has been downloaded

Our Parish Clerk has now had data downloaded from the VAS cameras, the results are interesting and have yet to be fully checked and analysed but certainly seem to show that there is a considerable amount of speeding through out village as residents have so often said. Is it time we had actual speed cameras with fines for offenders rather than relying on neighbourhood speed-watch schemes? I think the public has had enough time to be 'educated' about the dangers of speeding and there's nothing like the threat of a fine to focus a driver's concentration on their speedometer. More on the results of the VAS camera next month I hope.

It has been reported that residents of Parsons Close have trouble when exiting onto the A3052 as cars accelerate from the mini roundabout travelling west towards Exeter. One has asked for a VAS camera to be sited there to slow down to give them a better chance to exit Parson's Close. Unfortunately there needs to be a long line of sight for the camera to be effective and as far as I can tell there is not enough distance for this to work.

Road Closure Higher Way, Harpford 21-26th April 2021

The road between Harpford and Tipton St John is due to be closed on the above dates. I believe this is for resurfacing, the road is certainly in a shocking state.

Double Yellow lines at the entrance of Millmoor Lane

These have now been completed, we are still awaiting lines for School Lane and other side roads off the High Street. Hopefully the recycling lorries will now always also be able to successfully collect the recycling from Millmoor Lane. Sometimes they previously had difficulty in turning into the lane where cars were parked right up to the main road. Beware because traffic enforcement officers are patrolling and will issue penalty notices to anyone parked on double yellow lines.

Residents' complaints

Concern raised again about Newton Poppleford residents being unable to sign up to Sidmouth Beacon Surgery

The lack of choice for residents about attending the most convenient doctors' surgery continues. It would without question be more convenient for most residents to attend the Sidmouth Beacon surgery especially for those dependent on public transport. This is not currently possible and it is unclear if and when it will be possible although the parish council is very keen that residents should be able to attend their surgery of choice and has been in discussion behind the scenes with both surgeries for some time. It is a matter for both surgeries and the Clinical Commissioning Group to determine where residents can register. It is frustrating that some residents are able to be registered with the Sidmouth practise, yet others are not, especially in neighbouring households. Newton Poppleford residents are currently able to register with Budleigh Salterton practise if they wish.

Concern about unsightly new telegraph poles in Newton Poppleford for installing Fast Fibre broadband to local Premises.

This has been a contentious issue across the parish. BT Openreach state that it would be too expensive and complicated to install underground cabling to some areas. Some residents have successfully negotiated a change of site where new poles have been considered essential and some residents are not concerned about new poles if it means they get fast broadband. It is certainly worth contacting the person named on any planning notices to discuss the matter in person. I have found Adrian Chamberlain very helpful indeed. I seem to remember he explained to me that anyone can object to a new pole or the area it is sited in and it could mean that pole is not installed but that would potentially mean a 7 year delay on getting the faster Broadband to the area.

Val Ranger, Ward Councillor, Newton Poppleford and Harpford
Tel 07475 201 340 or email: vranger@btinternet.com