

Proposed for release on Tuesday 2 June

Latest COVID-19 funding pot for businesses launches

Small businesses affected by coronavirus restrictions are encouraged to claim grants of up to £10,000 as the latest round of Government funding is rolled out.

Cherwell District Council is administering the new, discretionary scheme. It targets organisations that were not eligible for the previous grant schemes and which have ongoing property-related costs. Businesses operating in shared workspaces, market traders, small charities, and bed and breakfasts could all benefit. They will need to evidence a significant fall in income due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Cllr Lynn Pratt, lead member for economy, said: "Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy and we are working hard to get this fresh grant funding to them at this very challenging time.

"We will be assessing their claims against a clear policy, published on our website, and will be using the discretionary powers entrusted to us by Government to focus support on strategically important businesses that are suffering extreme hardship.

"We have previously issued £22m of funding to small and medium businesses as part of the initial round of Government support. This latest offer is designed for small businesses which weren't able to claim from that funding pot and I encourage anyone who thinks their organisation might be eligible to visit the council website and find out more."

The amount a business receives will be dependent on its specific circumstances, up to the maximum amount of £10,000. One focus of this scheme will be on businesses which pay inclusive rents and which do not have their own business rates accounts.

Applications will be accepted from Tuesday 2 June until Sunday 14 June. All applications will be reviewed and decided after the closing date.

Eligibility details, the discretionary grants policy, and the application form are available via this link:

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/258//675/coronavirus-guidance-for-businesses/4>

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