

Media release

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Continuing to support our businesses

Ashford Borough Council is continuing to process applications for the government's coronavirus grants scheme. Typical turnaround for valid applications is the week after an application is submitted.

When the scheme was announced, the council estimated there would be around 2,500 businesses in the borough who would be eligible for the grants. As at 22 April, 1,786 have been paid more than £21m.

A team of council officers have also contacted a list of businesses that may be eligible to make sure any who have not applied for the grants are aware of how to, to ensure this money reaches the businesses who need it as quickly as possible.

If you receive Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief, you can apply for the grant of £10,000 which can go towards ongoing business costs. Businesses in retail, leisure and hospitality with a rateable value between £1 and £15,000 can apply for a grant of £10,000. Those more than £15,000 but less than £51,000 can apply for £25,000 grants. The application can be done online and will only take a few minutes if you have the following information to hand:

- Business rates account reference number;
- VAT registration number (if you are registered for VAT);
- Company Number (if registered with Companies House);
- Business name and activity;
- Details of the ratepayer;
- Bank account details.

Cllr Gerry Clarkson, Leader of the Council, said: "We have made good progress so far, paying around 70% of the businesses we were expecting to apply for these grants. If you run a business in Ashford borough please apply online for these grants. They are grants from the government, rather than loans, and do not need to be repaid, so if you are struggling at the moment they are there to help you."

To find out more about the grants and apply online, visit <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/your-community/emergency-planning/health-and-pandemics/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-advice-for-businesses/>.

For more information, contact:

Hannah Collins
Communications Officer
Tel: 01233 330544



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Civic Centre
Tannery Lane
Ashford
Kent
TN23 1PL



www.ashford.gov.uk

Mobile: 07880 788835
hannah.collins@ashford.gov.uk
www.ashford.gov.uk