

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Name of Grant</b>	<b>Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme</b>
<b>Sub-section</b>	<b>Tranche 4 Part 1</b>
<b>Parts</b>	Additional grant for businesses in the Events and Travel Sectors who were recipients of a 'Qualifying Grant' and provide their main service remotely from their trading location.
<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>ARG-T4 P1</b>
<b>Start Date</b>	<b>29/07/2021</b>
<b>Final date for information/ evidence submission</b>	<b>20/09/2021</b>
<b>Final Payment Date</b>	<b>30/09/2021</b>

### INTRODUCTION

In response to the Coronavirus 4-week National Lockdown, which was announced on 31/10/2020, the Government also announced there would be funding provided to Local Authorities to support businesses in their areas. The Additional Restrictions Grants Scheme (ARG) was announced alongside the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

ARG funds have been made available to support local economies and businesses that have been adversely impacted by imposed national restrictions, and in anticipation of future restrictions. Local Authorities, however, have the discretion to determine how much funding to provide businesses and which businesses to target.

Fareham Borough Council initially received £2,324,660 in funding for the ARG scheme. It had been stated that no additional funds would be awarded within the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. However, an additional £1,032,504 was subsequently received as the ARG-Top Up in January 2021. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 the Government announced that a further £425 million would be made available nationally for Local Authorities, through a conditional top-up to the Additional Restrictions from 1 April 2021. One of these conditions is that the original fund allocations are spent by 30 June 2021.

Fareham Borough Council successfully met this deadline and has received a subsequent top up of £824,098 on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides all local authorities with the vires to make these payments.

At the start of the scheme Fareham Borough Council adopted a set of principles which would underpin how the ARG funds would be used with starting allocations for the

different parts of the scheme. These allocations have now been refreshed to reflect the trends in payments which have been made to date and to account for the new allocation received 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The table below shows the allocation of the funds and the latest proposals. It is still expected that there may be some movement of funding between the parts depending on the level of take up over the coming months.

Part of Scheme		Period Covered by Payment	Funding Allocated	
			Originally	Revised
ARG-T1	First Tranche of Grants - General	5 Nov 20 to 1 Dec 20 plus Group 3 Top Up	£909,864	£558,280.56
ARG-T1M	First Tranche of Grants - Markets support	14 Dec 20 to 31 Mar 21	£20,000	£4,866.50
ARG-T2P1	Second Tranche of Grants - General	26 Dec 20 to 19 Mar 21 plus Group 2 Top Up	£929,864	£1,016,500.00
ARG-WS	Wider Support Schemes	April 2021 - March 2022	£464,932	£464,932.00
ARG-T2P2	Second Tranche of Grants - No November Loss	5 Nov 20 to 1 Dec 20 plus Group 3 Top Up 26 Dec 20 to 19 Mar 21 plus Group 2 Top Up	£200,000	£150,680.00
ARG-Taxi	Second Tranche of Grants - Taxi support	5 Nov 2020 to 1 Dec 2020 & 26 Dec 2020 to 11 Apr 2021	£475,000	£540,000.00
ARG-CSM	Continued Support for Market Traders	Includes ARG-CSMA ARG-CSMB ARG-CSMC	£66,000	£60,927.70
LADGF-C	Required Contribution to LADGF scheme		£26,000	£26,000.00
ARG-T3	Third Tranche of Grants - General	ARG-T3P1: 5 Nov 20 to 19 Mar 21 ARG-T3P2: 20 Mar 21 to 16 May 21 ARG-T3P3: Group 1 Top Up	£949,164	£1,201,632.00
ARG-T4 P1	Events and Travel Roadmap extension scheme	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021 to 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021		£85,000.00
ARG-CSMAe	Further extended stall reimbursements	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021		£35,000.00
Unallocated				£37,443.24
				<b>£4,181,262.00</b>
Grants Received	ARG Original Allocation		£2,324,660	
	ARG January 2021 top-up		£1,032,504	
	ARG July 2021 top-up		£824,262	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£4,181,262</b>	

This document covers Part 1 of the Fourth Tranche of Grants to businesses.

#### TRANCHE 4 PART 1- GRANTS TO BUSINESSES SCHEME (ARG-T4 P1)

This grant scheme is an extension to previous mandatory and discretionary Grant Schemes which have now closed, or will close shortly.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021, The Prime Minister announced a 4-week extension to Stage 4 of the Government's Roadmap. This extended the easing of restrictions from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The aim of **ARG-T4 P1** is to provide support to businesses (including charities, non-profit organisations, community interest companies or similar organisations) in the Borough of Fareham, who have been most affected by this extension.

**ARG-T4 P1** will apply to the extension of Roadmap Step 4 between 22/06/2021 and 19/07/2021. Eligible businesses will be certain businesses in the Events and Travel Sectors. Those businesses who are eligible will be the businesses who provide their service or product remote from their trading location, and so were excluded from some of the other mandatory grants.

### **Cost of the Scheme**

ARG funding of up to £85,000 has been set aside for the ARG-T4 P1 Scheme from the allocations of funding received from the government.

### **ARG-T4 P1**

The ARG-T4 P1 Scheme covers the following 3 eligible groups:

- Businesses operating from rateable properties
- Businesses operating in a commercial non-rateable property (including shared office spaces)
- Businesses operating from domestic premises

### **How much Grant will be paid to businesses under the ARG-T4 P1?**

The amount awarded is based on the grant values from the other ARG schemes, applied to the 28-day period.

The amount awarded to eligible businesses will be as per the table below:

Group	Criteria	Amount
3	Liable party in a rateable property with a rateable value* of £51,000 or more.	£3,000
2	Liable party in a rateable property with a rateable value* over £15,000 and less than £51,000.	£2,000
1	All other eligible businesses	£1,334

\*Rateable Value figure will be the value on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

Only a single grant is payable to each eligible business. If a business operates from multiple properties, the grant value will be based on the property in the borough with the highest rateable value.

## Eligibility Criteria for the ARG-T4 P1 Scheme:

To be considered for a grant under the ARG-T4 P1 scheme the following criteria must be met:

- a) **Main business in the Events and Travel Sectors who provide their main service remote from their trading location.**
- b) **Previously received a ‘Qualifying Grant’ from Fareham Borough Council**

The ‘Qualifying Grants’ are:

<b>Name of grant</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Additional Restrictions Grant-Tranche 1	ARG-T1
Additional Restrictions Grant-Tranche 2 Part 1	ARG-T1P1
Additional Restrictions Grant-Tranche 2 Part 2	ARG-T1P2
Additional Restrictions Grant-Tranche 3 Part 1	ARG-T3P1
Additional Restrictions Grant-Tranche 3 Part 2	ARG-T3P2
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 1	LRSG-Ad1
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 2	LRSG-Ad2
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 3	LRSG-Ad3
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum Tier 4	LRSG-AdT4
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Tier 2	LRSG-C1
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)	LRSG-O
Closed Business Lockdown Payment	CBLP
Restart Grant-Hospitality, Leisure and Personal Care	Restart-HLPC

Grants which are not classified as ‘Qualifying Grants’ are:

<b>Name of grant</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Additional Restrictions Grant-Taxi	ARG-Taxi
Additional Restrictions Grant-Tranche 1 Markets	ARG-T1M
Restart Grant-Non-Essential Retail	Restart-NER
Additional Restrictions Grant-Extended Stall Reimbursements	ARG-CMSA
Additional Restrictions Grant-Markets Loss of Income Grant	ARG-CMSB
Additional Restrictions Grant-Gazebo Scheme	ARG-CMSC
Additional Restrictions Grant-Further extended stall reimbursements	ARG-CMSAe
Additional Restrictions Grant-Wider Support Main Scheme	ARG-WSM
Additional Restrictions Grant-Wider Support Voucher Scheme	ARG-WSV
Christmas Support payment	CSP

## c) **Be an Active Business**

The business must:

- Declare that they satisfy at least one of the Government’s Trading Indicators as at 22 June 2021:
  - The business is open as normal

- The business has staff on Furlough
- The business continues to trade in a different way to normal e.g. online, via click and collect services etc.
- The business is engaged in business activity: managing accounts, preparing for re-opening, planning and implementing Covid-safe measures
- Not be dormant.
- Not be in liquidation, administration, insolvent or had a striking-off notice registered.

#### **d) Must have employees/staff**

- The business must pay the staff through PAYE. If the staff received their income through dividends only, it is acceptable to class them as employees, provided they directly deliver goods/services (for example, they are a shop-keeper who predominantly works in the shop).
- To avoid confusion: companies which are investment/holding companies rather than trading companies are not eligible, even if they do have staff.
- The definition of 'staff' can include volunteers if the organisation is a charity, non-profit organisation, community interest company or similar.

#### **e) Occupy at least one trading location in the Borough of Fareham**

Certain types of location are excluded, the list which follows is not exhaustive: car parks, properties used for storage units, commercial properties used for domestic purposes.

A single payment per business will be made.

Businesses are not eligible for these payments if they have moved out of the Borough.

#### **f) Must not exceed Subsidy Allowance limits (see below)**

### **Exclusions**

The following list, whilst not exhaustive, outlines the type of businesses which are excluded from T4 P1:

Pubs, bars, cafes, hotels, restaurants, community halls & centres, cinemas, theatres.

## **Application Process:**

All potentially eligible businesses will be known to the Council, through a previous Grant Scheme. They will be contacted directly, and invited to complete a short declaration form. This will enable the Council to confirm that they are still trading, that their bank details are up to date and that receipt of the grant will not cause them to exceed state Subsidy levels. Once the Council has checked these details and confirmed eligibility, the grant will be awarded.

Continued eligibility may be assessed by officers using information submitted and other sources including use of Companies House website, Northgate database, Spotlight and publicly available information such as Facebook and the business' webpages.

## **Assessment and Prioritisation of grants**

The fund is limited therefore once the fund has been used there will be no additional grants paid. Alternatively, surplus funds may be allocated to another ARG scheme.

The Council reserves the right to close the scheme if it is likely to become oversubscribed, in which case grants will be awarded on a first come basis.

The Council reserves the right to change the criteria of the scheme, including the amount of the grant, if it is likely to become oversubscribed or it becomes clear that the scheme may result in payments that were not intended.

The Council also reserves the right to use its discretion when assessing applications, where the principles of the scheme are being met but particular details of the scheme are preventing payments to businesses which the Council intended the grants scheme to help. However, there is no discretion over the maximum amount of the grant which can be awarded and the decision to use discretion for any application will be agreed by at least 2 authorising officers.

## **Award of grant**

All will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria and checked against information provided. All applicants will be contacted to be informed if grant has been awarded or declined with an explanation.

Only one grant of each type per business will be awarded regardless of the number of properties they occupy.

## **Payment of grant**

All payments will be made via BACS (as soon as practicable) and the business must provide bank details for payment, including proof that the account is related to the business.

## **Tax**

Grant income received is taxable therefore funding paid under any Local Authority discretionary grant scheme should be declared for tax purposes.

## **Subsidy Allowance Limits**

Receipt of these grants falls within the rules of the relevant State Aid/Subsidy Control/ Subsidy Allowance rules which were in place at the time of the period of restrictions. More details can be found at:

<https://www.fareham.gov.uk/business/subsidyallowances.aspx>

and using the link to the government guidance below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-uks-international-obligations-on-subsidy-control-guidance-for-public-authorities>.

## **Fraud**

The council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money may face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

All applicants' information will be shared with the Government Grants Management team to enable any fraud to be identified. The council will use tools available to confirm accuracy of applications and submitted data.

Applicants will need to make declarations within their application, any application received without the declarations completed will be rejected.

## **Transparency**

The Council reserves the right to publicise the names of businesses helped through this scheme.

## **Appeals**

There are no further appeals rights for the grant, the Council's decision is final, however, we will review our decision if it is clear that an error was made in processing an application