

Business newsletter (19 May 2021)

Welcome to the new Fareham Borough Council newsletter, which aims to keep businesses informed about what is happening locally during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This newsletter will provide details of:

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Further information will be published to inform readers of useful information as and when it occurs.

New grant schemes now available

The Council is pleased to announce new grant schemes available to help businesses across the Borough.

1. Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) Third Grant Payment (T3P2)

Businesses operating from commercial premises or bed and breakfasts, which previously received an ARG grant, may be eligible for a third grant payment for the period 20 March 2021 -16 May 2021. Eligible businesses will be contacted directly by the Council.

2. New ARG Applications (T3P1)

New ARG applicants are welcomed from businesses who have not received Local Restrictions Support Grants or Restart Grants. The scheme is open to businesses or charities which operate from commercial or domestic premises with a minimum turnover of £10,000. Recipients will receive between £5,334 and £12,000. Full eligibility criteria and application form can be found on the [Council's website](#).

3. Business Rates Payers Top up (T3P3)

This scheme is open to business rates payers who have previously received an ARG grant and who were trading on 11 March 2020 but didn't get a grant under the Spring/ Summer schemes. The Council will identify these and make the additional £2,500 payment directly.

If you are not sure if you are eligible, please call the grants helpline on 01329 824430 on weekdays from 8.45am to 5.15pm and a member of the Council team will be happy to help. For more information on all the open grant schemes available, or to make an application, please go to www.fareham.gov.uk/grants

Training support for town centre businesses

The Council has commissioned Enterprise South to deliver a free programme of support to any business within Fareham's town and district centres including Locks Heath, Titchfield, Stubbington, Warsash, Park Gate and Portchester. This comprehensive package of support includes:

- Access to a FREE legal helpline - Tel: 023 8082 7477
- Free business management [app](#) (normally £65).
- Free, confidential 1:1 session with an enterprise advisor
- Complimentary workshops:
 - [Customer Acquisition](#) – Would your business benefit from some FREE customer acquisition advice? - 19th May 8am, 12.30pm and 6pm
 - [Your Online Presence](#) – Could your website do with a refresh? - 20th May, 6pm
 - [Digital Marketing](#) – Do you want help making your website stand out from the competition? - 25th May 8am, 12.30pm and 6pm
 - [Finance Essentials](#) – Would your business benefit from some FREE finance Tips? - 26th May at 12.30pm

Please click the title to find out more and book your place. You can also register your interest by emailing businesssupport@enterprisesouth.co.uk or calling 0844 332 0131. Find out more at: <https://savethehighstreet.org/fareham>

Council bidding for funding to revitalise town centres

The Council is bidding for the Government's Levelling Up Fund, which will invest up to £20m in capital infrastructure projects, with two of the main priorities being:

- The regeneration of town centres and high streets
- Cultural and heritage assets

Our bid focusses on delivering enhanced, modern and accessible cultural facilities in the Borough, that improve the vibrancy and vitality of the town, and represent the first major step of the town centre regeneration vision:

Construction of Fareham Live, a new arts and entertainment venue comprising an 800-seat theatre, with secondary performance space, studio and community facilities.

Modernisation of the adjacent Osborn Road Multi-Storey Car Park to include wider spaces, better lighting, security and electric vehicle charging points.

The total cost of these projects is £17.8m. Funding of £13.1m will be sought from the Levelling Up Fund, with the Council providing an additional £4.7m.

We would like to understand the level of support for this bid. Please take part in this [quick survey](#) and have your say.

Shaping the Council's Business Support Strategy

The Council has teamed up with the University of Portsmouth's Business School to survey Fareham-based business owners and residents thinking about starting their own business.

The findings from the survey will be analysed by the Business Resilience and Growth group at the University of Portsmouth's Business School and will be used to inform the Council's Economic Development Strategy for the next ten years.

The deadline for the survey has been extended so there is still chance to share your thoughts. The survey can be done on a mobile phone or tablet and takes no more than ten minutes to complete.

If you are already in business, please take the [existing business survey](#).

If you are in the process of starting a business, please take the [new business survey](#).

Shop Local Shop Safe campaign supporting our high streets

Hopefully you will all have seen the Council's 'Shop Local Shop Safe' posters, banners, roundabout signs and digital displays encouraging people safely back to the town and district centres.

A new website is also available at <https://shoplocalfareham.org/> to showcase and support the shops and services within town and district centres across the Borough.

All businesses in town and district centres should have been contacted to have their information added to the website, but if you would like to have your information included, please contact economicdevelopment@fareham.gov.uk.

Useful Information

- When planning to re-open your business, please refer to the relevant [Working Safely guidance](#) for your sector. Guidance in these documents may well have changed since the previous edition, so you may need to update your procedures and risk assessment accordingly.

- Hospitality businesses can find specific information and advice on how to safely welcome back guests [here](#).
- Business and premises that have been closed for a long time may be at risk of legionella, for further guidance on what action to take before opening buildings up to staff please follow [this link](#).
- There is specific guidance for those re-opening food businesses. You can find out more [here](#).
- Go to the Fareham Borough Council Website for a [handy checklist](#) for those businesses looking to reopen from the 12 April onward.

Subscribe

To subscribe to future editions of our business newsletter directly to your inbox, please follow this link and fill in our short online [subscription form](#).

Useful Links

- You can find guidance about support for small businesses and the self-employed from the [Federation of Small Business](#)
- Find a wide range of business support and information with the [Hampshire Chamber of Commerce](#)
- There is a new 'Coronavirus' hub on the [Solent LEP](#) website detailing all of the available support for local businesses.
- There are also a number of national financial support schemes designed to help businesses during the pandemic. You can find out if your business is eligible using the [Business Support Finder Tool](#)