

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Name of Grant	Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme
Sub-section	Continued Support for Market Traders – Part A Further Extension
Abbreviation	ARG-CMSAeA
Start Date	01/01/2022
End Date	25/03/2022
Final Payment Date	31/03/2022

INTRODUCTION

In response to the Coronavirus 4-week National Lockdown, ending on 02/12/2020, the Government 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. 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 March 2021 the Government announced that a further £425 million would be made available 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 received a subsequent top up of £824,098 on 16th July 2021 which must be distributed to qualifying businesses being made by 31 March 2022. 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 were refreshed to reflect the trends in payments which have been made to date and to account for the new allocation received.

Further allocations have therefore been earmarked for a number of schemes including a second extension of the market stall reimbursement scheme which is covered by this document.

FURTHER EXTENDED STALL REIMBURSEMENTS (ARG-CSMAeA)

The aims of the Market Support schemes are to support market traders at the Fareham and Portchester markets, and to provide opportunity for casual or new traders to trade. The ultimate aim is to keep the markets vibrant and attractive to customers, increasing footfall in the two centres further supporting the retail and food outlets in the area and the local economy.

The stall reimbursement schemes reimburse the amount paid by a market trader, operating as part of the Fareham and Portchester markets, for their stall. This is the fourth tranche of the scheme as follows:

	Period of the Scheme	Actual Value	Estimated Value
ARG-T1M	14 December 2020 – 31 March 2021	£4,866.50	
ARG-CSMA	1 April 2021 – 20 June 2021	£12,281.70	
ARG-CSMAe	21 June 2021 – 31 December 2021	£31,286.80	
ARG-CSMAeA	1 January 2022 – 25 March 2022		£14,000
		£48,435.00	£14,000

Cost of the Scheme

Based on the average weekly cost of reimbursing the regular market traders and casual traders from the ARG-CSMAe scheme, the cost of the scheme has been estimated at £14,000 to be funded from the second ARG top up funds.

How much Reimbursement will be paid under the ARG-CSMAe Scheme?

The reimbursement paid will match, in full, the pitch fees paid each week. The table below shows the current charges which will be in place for the entirety of the scheme. The charges are in £/foot referring to the size of the market stall

The number of reimbursements at each market is capped. 'Signed on' traders will be reimbursed first, then any casual traders up to a maximum total of 50 pitch fees reimbursed each market.

The pitch fees for additional markets will also be eligible.

Fareham Market		
Inclusive of VAT		
Signed on pitch fee	Per foot, minimum of 15ft, maximum of 50ft	2.00
Casual pitch fee	Per foot, minimum of 15ft, maximum of 50ft	2.50
Additional Markets	Per foot, minimum of 15ft, maximum of 50ft	1.00
Portchester Market		
Not currently subject to VAT		
Signed on pitch fee	Per foot, minimum of 15ft, maximum of 50ft	1.00
Casual pitch fee	Per foot, minimum of 15ft, maximum of 50ft	1.50

Who is Eligible for the ARG-CSMA Scheme?

Only Active Market Traders who trade as part of the Fareham or Portchester markets are eligible for this scheme. All other businesses should refer to the other ARG schemes.

The definition of market traders for Part A of the scheme includes regular “signed on” market traders and casual market traders who must use a stall at one of the markets at least once during the defined period.

Applying for a Reimbursement

Active Market Traders are known to The Council. We will make contact directly with the eligible parties and invite them to apply. The application process will be administered by the Market Management Company on a weekly basis.

Assessment and Prioritisation of Reimbursements

All relevant applications will be assessed, and the pitch fee reimbursement made if the criteria are met. Reimbursements will be made weekly in arrears. The Council reserves the right to close the ARG-CSMAeA scheme if it is likely to exceed the funding earmarked for it. An application is considered ‘complete’ when all required information has been provided.

Payment of the Reimbursement

All payments will be made via BACS direct to the applicant’s bank account.

OTHER CRITERIA

To be considered for the funding the following criteria must be met:

a) Be an Active Market Trader at the Fareham or Portchester markets

The business must not be dormant.

The business must not be in liquidation, administration, insolvent or had a striking-off notice registered.

Active Market Trader means a trader who pays for a Street Trading Consent for each trading day at the market.

b) Bank details must be provided

The reimbursement can only be paid directly into a bank account, regardless of the method of payment for the pitch. The business must provide bank details for payment, including proof that the account is related to the business.

c) Must not exceed Subsidy Allowance limits (see below)

Tax

Income received under the ARG Scheme is taxable therefore funding paid under any Local Authority discretionary grant should be declared for tax purposes.

Subsidy Allowance Limits

Receipt of this grant 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/state_aid.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, or colluding to commit fraud, may face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any payments 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.

Transparency

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

Appeals

There are no further appeals rights for this scheme, 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.