

Cheshire West Covid-19 Support for Businesses Addendum to Policy 31 December 2020.

Policy for grants available for rateable businesses forced to close due to tier restrictions introduced from 31 December 2020

1. This policy is applicable for the period from 31 December 2020 until Cheshire West and Chester is no longer subject to Tier 4: Stay at Home or Tier 5: National Lockdown Stay at Home Covid-19 restrictions.
2. When local restrictions were imposed by Government at Tier 4 and Tier 5 a significant number of businesses were mandated to close to manage the spread of coronavirus. The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) and (Sector) will cease to apply, and Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) will be superseded by the conditions set out in this addendum.
3. Businesses will not be eligible for multiple versions of the Local Restrictions Support Grant under Tier 4 or Tier 5 restrictions.
4. The aim of the policy is to support those businesses that have a rateable value as provided by the Valuation Office Agency and have been mandated to close by government.
5. The Council has no discretion over the eligibility or payment amounts made through this scheme.
6. Local restrictions refer to legally binding restrictions imposed on all Local Authority areas in England in response to the threat posed by coronavirus.

Eligibility

7. Grants under this addendum are only payable to business properties which have a rateable value provided by the Valuation Office Agency at 31 December. Any changes to the rating list after the first full day of Tier 4 restrictions and business closures came into force will be excluded for the purposes of eligibility.
8. Businesses that were trading and providing in-person services to customers from their business premises on 30 December 2020 (or 4 November 2020 if subject to closure under previous tiering) will be eligible for support under this scheme. This includes non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses.
9. Businesses within the nightclub, dancehall or adult entertainment venue that have been forced to close since 23 March 2020 will be eligible for support under this scheme.

10. Businesses that can continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate their services effectively remotely (e.g. accountants, solicitors) will not be eligible for this grant.
11. Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to will not be eligible for this grant but may be eligible for support through the Additional Restrictions Grant where additional financial information will be required.
12. All other conditions relevant to the Local Restrictions Support Grants apply, including insolvency, tax regulations, managing the risk of fraud, monitoring and evaluation requirements and State aid conditions.
13. The thresholds that apply to Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) apply to this addendum are below and will be apportioned in-line with government guidance and when appropriate apportioned to the period under Tier restrictions:
 - a. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on the date of the commencement of the widespread national restrictions will receive payments of:
 - i. £238 Tier 4: Stay at Home for the 5 day qualifying period (31 December 2020 – 4 January 2021)
 - ii. £2001 per 42 day qualifying period from 5 January 2021
 - iii. £4,000 one off Lockdown Support Payment
 - b. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on the date of the commencement of the widespread national restrictions will receive payments of:
 - i. £357 Tier 4: Stay at Home for the 5 day qualifying period (31 December 2020 – 4 January 2021)
 - ii. £3000 per 42 day qualifying period from 5 January 2021
 - iii. £6,000 one off Lockdown Support Payment
 - c. Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or above on the commencement date of the widespread national restrictions will receive payments of:
 - i. £536 Tier 4: Stay at Home for the 5 day qualifying period (31 December 2020 – 4 January 2021)
 - ii. £4500 per 42 day qualifying period from 5 January 2021
 - iii. £9,000 one off Lockdown Support payment