

**COVID-19 FINANCIAL MEASURES PUT IN PLACE BY GOVERNMENT  
BUSINESS SUPPORT**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report summarises the various financial measures put in place by Government to support businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Business Continuity Committee are asked to consider the financial measures put in place by Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 Due to the COVID-19 outbreak all non-essential businesses must close. There is information on the Scottish Government website in respect of which business premises are permitted to remain open. The Scottish Government is advising all business premises, sites and attractions to close unless:
- essential to the health and welfare of the country during this crisis; or
  - supporting (or being repurposed to support) essential services; or
  - capable of working in a way which is fully consistent with established social distancing advice; or
  - wider public health, health and safety or other considerations apply and require a facility or service to continue to operate or a specific period of time for a safe shutdown process to be completed.
- 3.2 The UK and Scottish Governments have announced a package of support to assist businesses. You can find out more at [COVID-19 UK Govt Support for business](#) and [FindBusinessSupportScotland](#) and more information is contained within Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The business support offered includes:
- Business Support Grant - £10,000 or £25,000 available to non-domestic ratepayers
  - Job Retention Scheme
  - Self-employment Income Support
  - Business Interruption Loan Scheme
  - Non-Domestic Rates Relief
  - Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees
  - Deferral of VAT payments
  - Defer Income Tax for Self Employed.

- 3.4 The Council is administering the business support grant and an initial advance of the funding (80%) was provided to Council's on 1 April, with the remaining amount to be disbursed at a later stage. As at close of business on 6 April 2020, there is approximately 1,300 emails relating to business grants (some will be applications, others will be queries or follow-up to information requested) and 446 applications have been processed. By grant type, 418 have been processed for the £10,000 grant with 390 approved and 49 processed for the £25,000 grant with 37 approved.
- 3.5 The Council have launched a Coronavirus Caring for People helpline and this is set up to help with all types of advice linked to coronavirus. The number is 01546 605524. Information on support for businesses is also on the Council website within the Coronavirus Help and Advice section and is updated regularly.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 A number of financial measures to support businesses have been announced by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as summarised within this report.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy – None.
- 5.2 Financial – The Scottish Government have announced additional funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of which is being routed via the Council.
- 5.3 Legal – None.
- 5.4 HR – None
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – See below
- 5.5.1 Equalities – None
- 5.5.2 Socio Economic Duty – None
- 5.5.3 Islands Duty - None
- 5.6 Risk – Funding is insufficient to meet the demand/needs across the Council.
- 5.7 Customer Service – None

**Kirsty Flanagan**  
**Interim Executive Director**  
**7 April 2020**

**Policy Lead for Economic Growth: Councillor Aileen Morton**

**Appendix 1 – Support for Businesses**

## Appendix 1 – Support for

<p>Two types of grant are available to non domestic ratepayers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a one-off £10,000 grant to ratepayers of small businesses</li> <li>• a one-off grant of £25,000 available to retail, hospitality and leisure business ratepayers with a rateable value between £18,001 and £50,999</li> </ul>	<p>These grants are administered by Argyll and Bute Council in line with eligibility criteria set by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The £10,000 grant is available to eligible small businesses in receipt of either Small Business Bonus Scheme relief or Rural Relief. You can also get this grant if you applied for Nursery Relief, Business Growth Accelerator Relief or Disabled Relief but are eligible for the Small Business Bonus Scheme</p> <p>The eligibility criteria are stated on the application form. The form is updated for the new guidance opening up support to self-catering lets and caravans in certain circumstances</p> <div data-bbox="595 1503 863 1574" style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> <p>_____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="595 1581 928 1653" style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> <p>_____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="595 1659 703 1731" style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> <p>_____</p> </div> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<div data-bbox="997 383 1369 689" style="border-bottom: 1px solid purple; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>_____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="997 745 1369 1160"> <p>If you have any questions about applying for the grant contact the Council's Coronavirus Caring for People Helpline Service on _____ and select option 2 (Business Related Help) followed by option 1 (Applying for the Business Support Grant).</p> </div>



	<p>The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) who have lost income due to coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <p>This scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.</p> <p>To be eligible you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have submitted an Income Tax Self-Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19</li> <li>traded in the tax year 2019-20</li> <li>are trading when you apply, or would be except for COVID-19</li> <li>intend to continue to trade in the tax year 2020-21</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/>

have lost  
trading/partnership find

	<p>must:</p> <p>be UK based, with turnover of no more than £45 million per year; and have a borrowing proposal which, were it not for the current pandemic, would be considered viable by the lender, and for which the lender believes the provision of finance will enable the business to trade out of any short-to-medium term difficulty</p> <p>All the major banks offer the Scheme. There are 40 accredited providers in all.</p>	
	<p>To get this relief, a property has to be occupied.</p> <p>These reliefs will be available to non-domestic properties from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>You do not need to apply for these reliefs as they will be applied to your bill by the Council.</p> <p>If you are struggling to pay your non-domestic rates bill</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



	you should contact the Council and ask about your payment options.	
Support for businesses who are	<p>The Government will bring forward legislation to allow small-and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19.</p> <p>A rebate scheme is being developed.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>If you're a UK VAT registered business and have a VAT payment due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, you have the option to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>defer the payment until a later date</li> <li>pay the VAT due as normal</li> </ul> <p>If you're in temporary financial distress because of COVID-19 more help is available from HMRC's _____.</p>	<hr/> <hr/>

For Income Tax Self-Assessment, payments due on the 31 July 2020 may be deferred until 31 January 2021.



The deferment is optional. This is an automatic offer with no applications required. No penalties or interest for late payment will be charged if you defer payment until January 2021. You do not need to be self-employed to be eligible for the deferment

If you're in temporary financial distress because of COVID-19 more help is available from HMRC's \_\_\_\_\_.

Help and advice your business is available from Business Gateway.



You can talk to one of the local business advisers, free and in confidence.



Online guides, tutorials and further resources are available on the website.