



**Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Additional Restrictions Top Up  
Grants Policy**

**2021/22**



## Meeting Ambitions 9 and 10

### Ambition 9



Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.

### Ambition 10



Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Additional Restrictions Grant (Top-Up) ARG is a discretionary scheme to support those businesses affected by the pandemic who are not generally eligible to obtain support from the other grant schemes. The ARG funding will be used to make discretionary grants directly to eligible businesses and to undertake wider business support activities.

This policy outlines Sandwell's application of the ARG top-up scheme.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made, are not eligible for funding under the ARG scheme.

In Sandwell the ARG discretionary scheme will be available to support Sandwell businesses which have been adversely affected by Covid-19:

- Category 1- A VAT registered business which has reintroduced staff into the workforce from the Furlough scheme in the past 6 months and which still employs them as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.
- Category 2 - Who have not received a previous Local Authority Covid-19 related Business Support Grant.

For Category 2	Eligible
No grants claimed	✓
Any Local Restrictions or National Restrictions Support Grants	✗
Any Discretionary Grants	✗
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)	✗
Restart Grants	✗

All qualifying businesses must have a business bank account, not a personal account used solely for business.

Businesses can only apply for one scheme.

Sandwell will consider the following factors when determining eligibility and the amount of grant payable:

- The circumstances of the businesses
- The social value the business brings to the borough
- The importance of the business to the local economy

Businesses will be subject to State Aid rules and where these limits are exceeded will not qualify for a discretionary grant under this scheme and applicants will be required to complete appropriate disclosures.

### 3. AMOUNTS PAYABLE

Awards made through this scheme will be either:

Category 1	a £10,000 one-off grant payment for reintroducing furloughed staff back to work.
Category 2	a one-off grant payment of £5,000, £7,500 or £10,000 dependent on number of employees.

As this is a cash limited scheme the application window will close once the funding has been committed.

Payment will be made directly to the business' bank account via an electronic transfer (BACS).

### 4. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

An online application form will be made available via <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportforbusinesses>

Businesses will be asked to provide evidence to support their application and the online facility will enable them to upload documents.

The application form will gather all the information required to satisfy the eligibility criteria set by the BEIS (Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) and locally to determine the amount of grant payable.

Local Authorities are also required to collect information from businesses receiving these grant payments; and will be required to account for how the funding has been spent. Grant recipients should note that they may be contacted for research purposes, and that their data will be shared with BEIS (Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) for research and evaluation purposes.

Sharing of personal data and how it will be used by Sandwell Council.

The details will be stored securely and retained in compliance with GDPR and the new Data Protection Act. This information will be used to evaluate the Additional Restrictions Grant – Top Up scheme and report to The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Skills (BEIS) for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

## 5. PUBLICITY

To maximise take-up the council will publicise the scheme using a variety of media, including the council’s website and social media. We will work with all interested parties to achieve this.

A copy of this policy statement will be made available for inspection and will be posted on the Sandwell Council website **via**

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportforbusinesses>

## 6. DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Given this is an online application, all applicants will be notified of the decision via the online portal.

The scheme does not allow for any formal right of appeal and all decisions are final.

## 7. OVERPAYMENT AND FRAUD

The council will seek to recover all grants found to be erroneously claimed.

The council is committed to identifying and subsequently investigating suspected fraudulent claims made under this scheme.

Businesses who falsely declare their circumstances will have committed a criminal offence, which may lead to criminal proceedings being instigated.