



Business Bulletin

Summer 2021

Continued Business Resilience

As we once again see our High Streets re-open and footfall return, a sense of optimism prevails. This issue of the business newsletter includes links to initiatives and support to grow your business as we start to look to the future. Mid Sussex District Council's recent campaign to support the re-opening of our High Streets has included radio advertising, media advertising, a double page feature in The Mid Sussex Times, car park banners and social media posts. With the long awaited improvement in weather certainly helping, the High Streets have seen healthy levels of footfall return, with hospitality venues making the most of the weather and flexibility to use their outdoor space to serve customers in a Covid-safe manner.

Our business community has proved to be very resilient, and we know how valuable the grant support for businesses has been. With over £90 million paid

out in business rate relief and grants across the district so far, this newsletter includes information on the latest Restart Grants and Discretionary Grants that are available.

Feedback from businesses continues to demonstrate how vital the financial support from both the government and MSDC's own Covid-19 Recovery Grants has been:



New Grant Funding Available

Restart Grants

Businesses are now able to apply for a new wave of funding as announced by central government. As with previous grant schemes the new Restart Grants are being administered by Mid Sussex District Council. Businesses in the non-essential retail sector will be eligible for one-off grants of up to £6,000, while businesses in the hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, and gym sectors, which reopen later, will be eligible for one-off grants of up to £18,000.

These grants are payable based on the sector your business is in regardless of

whether your business was mandated to close or not on the 5th January 2021. Further government guidance is available [here](#).

The application process is quick, simple and the amount paid is based on the rateable value of the property. Businesses can apply for the new Restart Grant support via <https://midsussex.grantapproval.co.uk/>

If a business has applied for previous funding via grant approvals much of the information will already be in the system, making application even quicker. **If you do not have a rateable property you can still apply for funding via the discretionary grant below.**

Discretionary Grants

In addition, a further round of discretionary grant funding is also now accepting applications. This Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is a discretionary grant for businesses closed or suffering from Covid-19. This current round of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme opened for applications on the 6th April 2021 with a closing date of the 30th June 2021 or whilst funds allow.

The Restart Grants are normally paid within 5 days of an eligible claim being made with the discretionary ARG being considered every month, however assessment and payments of eligible claims will take longer. Further details for both schemes can be found on the website [here](#)

KICKSTART
SCHEME

gov.uk/kickstart



Could you offer a Kickstart Placement?

Kickstart is a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of job placements for young people. Employers from all industries and across the private, public and voluntary sectors can get involved. The Government's Kickstart Scheme provides paid 6-month work placements for young people aged 16-24. With over 600 young people registered with our local job centre, **could you offer a young person a Kickstart placement in your business?**

Through the Kickstart scheme the Government will fund:

- 25 hours per week at National Minimum Wage
- National Insurance contributions
- Employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions
- £1,500 for each placement.

For more information, contact Jennifer.king2@dwp.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can apply via a Gateway Organisation further details can be found [here](#)

What businesses say...

[Pioneer Childcare](#) have been providing high quality wraparound care to schools across Sussex for over 10 years. Having operated a successful Student Support program since 2014, it was natural for us to link up with the Kickstart incentive following its announcement in 2020.

The whole process has been very intuitive and easy to use, due in part to the support from designated staff within our local Job Centre Plus, as well as from the wider DWP. We are kept well informed at each stage with clear communication and expectations.

The quality of candidates has been very good, with a high percentage meeting our expectation to move on to a second interview stage. They have all been prepared and responded quickly and appropriately to all our communications. We have already offered 5 Kickstart candidates full-time roles within our company and look forward to them thriving in their roles.

Moving forwards, we hope to welcome many [more Kickstart candidates to Pioneer](#) and support these young people as they thrive and gain confidence in a meaningful role.

Helping people back to work

Did you know that Mid Sussex District Council offers an Employment Support Service?

The Council's 'employment support' service is designed to assist residents of Mid Sussex on their journey into work. It's a scheme that provides tailored 1:1 support which includes help with job searches, matching an individual's skillset to an employer's needs, interview techniques and much more. Employment Support is keen to work in partnership with local employers to help fill their vacancies with suitable candidates and recognises that high employment levels contribute to vibrant and healthy communities, and that local people working for local businesses is desirable for many reasons.

To find out more about the scheme visit www.midsussex.gov.uk/backintowork or contact the team on employmentsupport@midsussex.gov.uk or 01444 477546.

Please help spread the word and pass on the details to anyone you know that might benefit from the service.

Other Business Support

HM Government

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

invest4

UNIVERSITY OF
CHICHESTER

EMAIL US NOW
hothouse@chi.ac.uk

THE BUSINESS HOTHOUSE
GRANTS | GUIDANCE | GROWTH

**GET CASH FROM THE
INVEST4 GRANT FUND**

90% of applicants to the Invest4 Grant Fund are awarded up to £170,000 to help grow their business or start-up.

Find out how to get it chi.ac.uk/business-services/business-hothouse/invest4-grant-funding

The Business Hothouse Programme provides a variety of business support across the Coast to Capital region, funded through EU European Regional Development Funds with additional match funding provided by local authorities and delivery partners. The Business Hothouse is a programme of FREE business support for start-up and established SMEs.

There are 6 strands of support:

- Grants for SMEs (Invest4 grants)
- Start-up Support
- Productivity and Growth Support
- Monetisation of Innovation Support
- Access to Finance Support

- Leadership and Management Support

The best referral route into the programme is via the Coast to Capital Growth Hub. Growth hub advisors can help signpost and advise the most relevant support, delivery partner and / or other programmes of support based upon the individual needs of your business. It may be that businesses can benefit from support through more than one strand.

Further details can be found on the Coast to Capital [website](#). Alternatively you can also go directly via The Business Hothouse [website](#)

Coast to Capital Growth Hub

The growth hub offers 1:1 support via specialist Growth advisors and more recently Brexit Transition advisors. The Growth Hub has access to a wide variety of diagnostic support and business growth tools including access to funding schemes, market sector insights, guides, business rules and regulations. For more information and to contact the Growth Hub visit the [website](#)

Working in partnership with Mid Sussex Business Associations

Throughout the past year business associations in Mid Sussex have played a pivotal role in ensuring important messages have reached their members and the wider business community. In particular their help in making sure businesses were aware of the financial support available via the different government grant schemes has been invaluable. Throughout the pandemic the business associations have continued to network with members via online events and recently took part in a broader event hosted by Gatwick Diamond

Business on the Power of Community talking about their role and the importance of collaboration. Watch the video [here](#)

To find out more about each of the business associations, their membership and upcoming events, links to their websites are included below.

[Burgess Hill Business Parks Association \(BHBPA\)](#)

[East Grinstead Business Association \(EGBA\)](#)

[Haywards Heath Business Association \(HHBA\)](#)



Can you help support the stars in
our community?

In 2021 we will be celebrating the 3rd year for our new Community Recognition Awards - **Mid Sussex Applauds**, recognising the amazing individuals, groups and businesses from across the District.

How can you get involved?

Supporting one of the categories will help cover the costs of organising and running the Awards. Each category has one sponsor each year and for 2021 the category sponsorship is £500.

In recognition of this vital support sponsors will be;

- recognised in award publicity – press and adverts, videos and social media

- promoted in the awards brochure
- included in the certificates of the category they support
- invited along to the awards ceremony and to give out the relevant award.

You can find out more at www.midsussex.gov.uk/applauds. If you are interested in supporting Mid Sussex Applauds Award scheme please contact julie.blackstock@midsussex.gov.uk

Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme – extended

As a reminder, residents and businesses in rural areas can still apply directly for Gigabit voucher grant funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, for better connectivity in rural areas for eligible applicants. More information can be found [here](#)

Stay in Touch

Please circulate this bulletin to others in your network. Anyone interested in receiving this Business Bulletin can sign up to receive them [here](#) and they will be added to the mailing list and contact database.

If you have any suggestions for future issues, business support or other ways we can support the local economy please contact the Economic Development team.

[Contact the Economic Development Team](#)