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28 April 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: City Centre West Relaunch Grant Scheme deadline extended

We are writing to give an update on the Relaunch grant scheme and to both reiterate the rationale for the grant and the Council's position on it.

Since the scheme went live on 5 April 2023, 21 businesses have come forward with their application. As at the end of last week, 2 businesses who provided the requested information have been approved and paid.

However, we also note that a number of businesses have yet to apply. We are conscious that there are bank holidays between now and the existing closing date of the 12 May 2023 which is why we have taken the decision to extend the closing date until **31 May 2023**. This will give eligible businesses more time to submit their applications and benefit from the scheme. We would reiterate that the funding will not be available after this date.

We understand that some traders disagree with the size of the grant payment. However, the total amount of funding available has been determined by the Council's Cabinet. It represents a significant sum of tax-payers money - £350,000 in total for the grants alone. This amount is proportionate and non-negotiable and will be evenly spread between eligible businesses to benefit more traders. Although the level of total funding for the support scheme has been agreed and set, the rationale for this decision-making will be discussed at the Council's Scrutiny Board on Tuesday 2 May 2023. You can find out more about the meeting here <https://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=20035&Ver=4>. It is important to note that Scrutiny Board is not a decision-making body, it does however review decisions that have already been made and make recommendations for consideration.

As we have also mentioned before, you may be eligible for some form of business rates relief. Please visit <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/business/business-rates> for more information or contact a member of the team on 01902 551155 to discuss your individual circumstances. This could include hardship relief and further information, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found at <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/business/business-rates/hardship-relief>

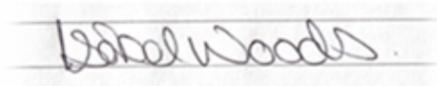
Finally, we want to be clear again, that the Council has **no legal responsibility to provide support** in these circumstances and that the support we always intended to provide and, indeed are now providing through the grant scheme, is categorically **not** compensation and was never intended to be

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compensation. The rationale behind the relaunch grant is to offer eligible businesses a one-off amount to relaunch their trading activities and seize upon the opportunities presented by the multi-million-pound investment in improved public realm and public spaces. It is not intended to recompense for loss or hardship. If you require any support with the application, you can contact one of the Employer Support team by calling 01902 555572 or emailing business.development@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,



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