

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 2 March 2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford (Chairman)

Councillor N J Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: T Davies, Mrs C L A Hockley, L Keeble, J G Kelly and
I Bastable

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies of absence.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 5 January 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTION

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. UPDATE OF COVID IMPACT ON COUNCIL FINANCES, INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, which provided an update of the Covid impact on Council finances including financial support to businesses.

The Head of Finance and Audit gave the Panel two presentations (which have been appended to these minutes, the first focusing on the impact of Covid on the Council's finances, and the second focusing on the financial support to businesses.

The Panel asked questions of the Head of Finance and Audit on several areas of her presentation, and all expressed their thanks to the officers for the continued hard work in this service.

RESOLVED that the Panel:

(a) note the content of the report; and

(b) thank the Head of Finance and Audit on her very informative presentation.

7. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Panel considered the Executive items of business which fall under the remit of the Policy and Resources Portfolio, including Executive Member decisions and Officer delegated decisions, that have taken place since the last meeting of the Panel on 5 January 2021.

The Panel considered the decisions at items 7 (1) to 7 (8) of the agenda.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel considered the following items of Executive Business.

(1) Finance Strategy, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2021/22

No comments were received.

(2) Fees and Charges 2021/22

No comments were received.

(3) Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2021/22

No comments were received.

(4) Local Restrictions Supports Grants (Open) Scheme

No comments were received.

(5) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2021/22

No comments were received.

(6) Housing Revenue Account 2021/22

No comments were received.

(7) Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22

No comments were received.

(8) Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

No comments were received.

8. SCRUTINY PRIORITIES

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer addressed the Panel on this item and addressed the changes that had been made to draft Scrutiny Priority Plan 2021/22 that had been discussed at the previous meeting.

Members were given the opportunity to put forward suggestions for items of business that they would like to scrutinise. Councillor Keeble, expressed an interest in seeing an item of Daedalus at the Panel, and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer confirmed that this was already scheduled for the Panel in the 2021/22 plan. Councillor Keeble, also suggested that, as part of the Panel's remit is to scrutinise the Council's finances, an item on advertising opportunities could be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Bastable expressed a keen interest in the postponed item on the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan being brought back to the Panel as soon as possible. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer confirmed that there will be a special meeting of the Panel convened to review this over the next few months.

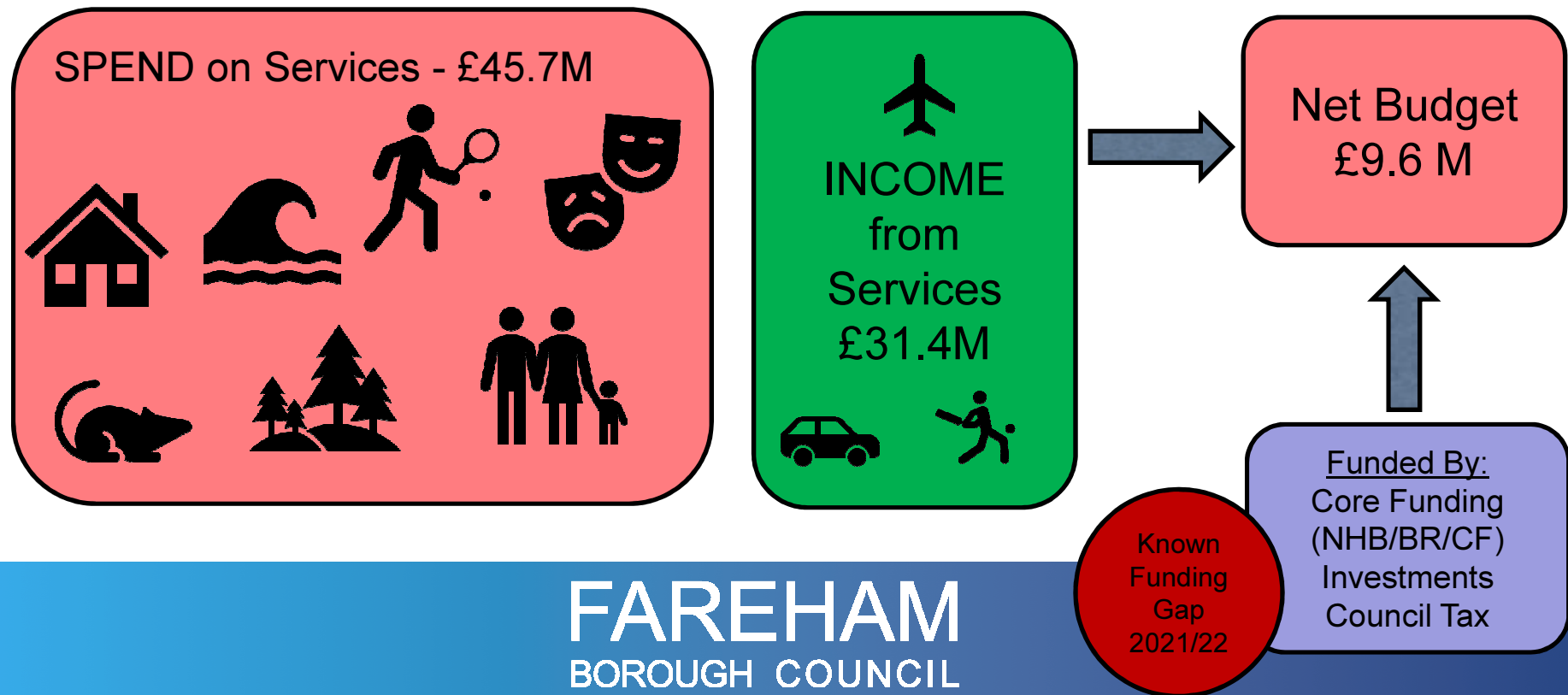
(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.10 pm).

COVID IMPACT ON COUNCIL FINANCES INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES

Presentation to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel
2 March 2021

IMPACT ON COUNCIL FINANCES

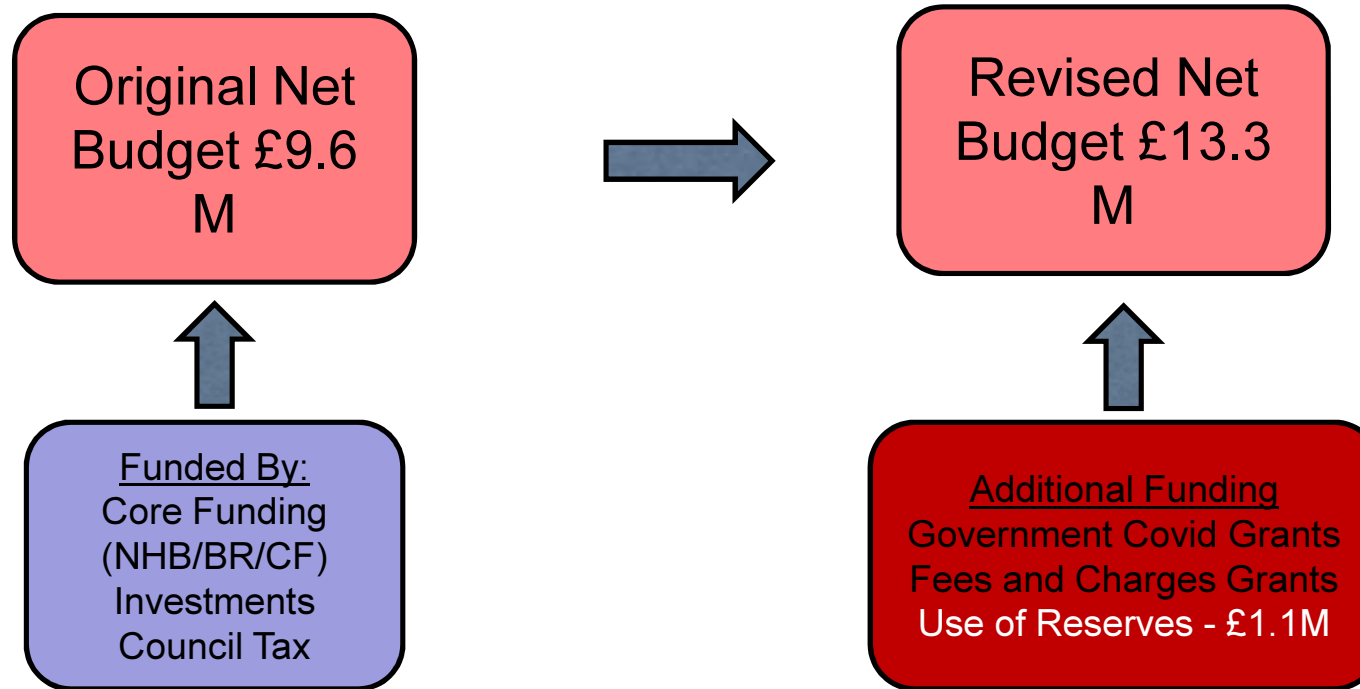
2020/21 Revenue Budget



Impacts of COVID19



2020/21 Emergency Budget (Sept)



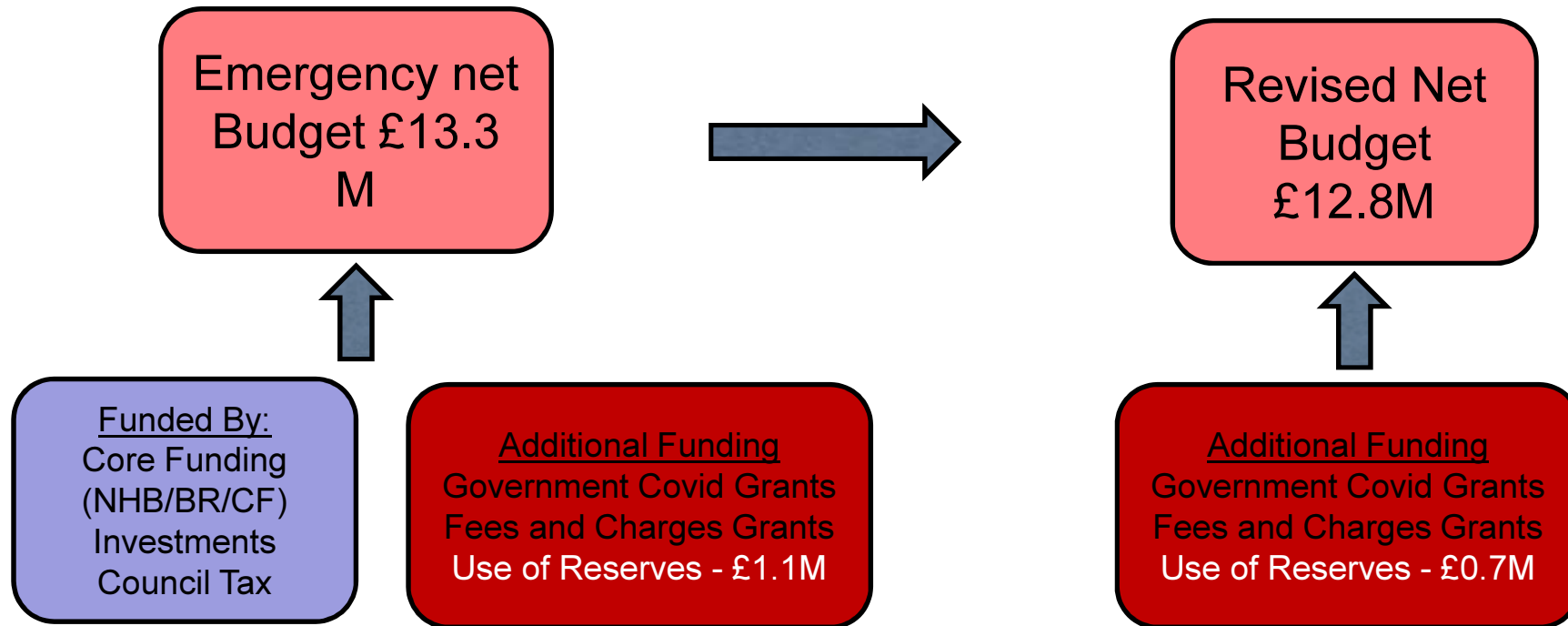
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Other Measures

Living Below
Our Means

- Events and activities put on hold e.g. Fareham in Bloom, Access all Areas, discretionary functions
- Furlough v redeployment for new burdens
- Monitor Grant Schemes available for LAs
- Capital programme review e.g. Fareham Live
- LBOM – Would you do this with your savings?

2020/21 Current Budget Projections



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Budget 2021/22

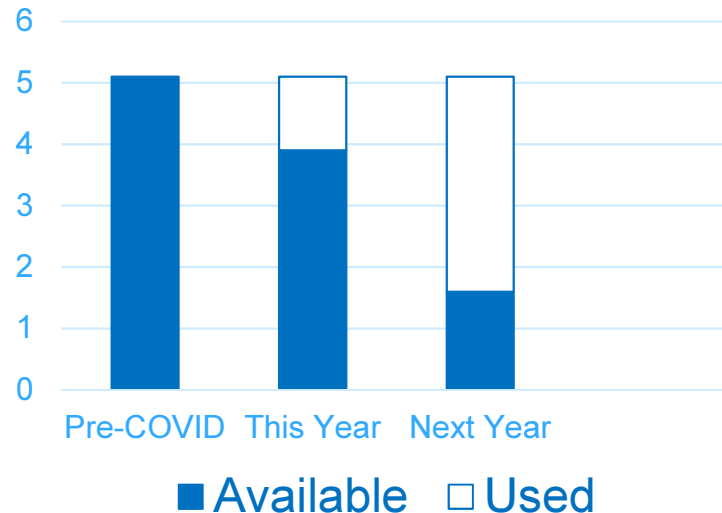
Description	Amount
Gross Budget	£48,371,100
Service Income	£35,532,700
COVID FUNDING	£751,000
CONT FROM RESERVES	£1,815,500

Budget 2021/22

Description	Amount
Net Budget	£10,271,900
LTSG Income	£153,700
Business Rates	£2,661,798
Amount from Tax Payers	£7,456,402

Impact on Useable Reserves

Available Reserves
(£m)



- Up to 60% used in the next 2 Years
- Fair Funding Review
- Opportunities Plan projects

In Summary

- ❖ Balanced Budgets set for the next 2 years
- ❖ BUT – Significant impact on reserves
- ❖ Future pressures still expected

END OF PART ONE

Questions?



FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES

Financial Support for Businesses

Wide variety of support to Fareham businesses

- Rate Reliefs
- Business Grants
- Other support

Over £50m available

£44.2m given to date

Business Rate Relief
(£18.4m)

Spring/Summer Grants
(£19.8m)

New Government Announcements

LRSG-various
(£8.5m)

ARG-various
(£3.3m)

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COVID Business Rates Reliefs



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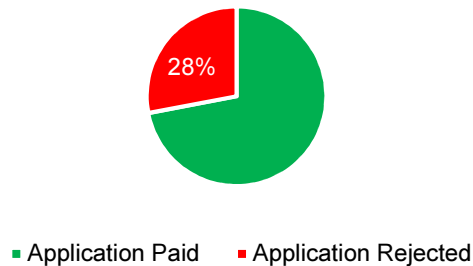
Business Grants Overview



- Mandatory or Discretionary
- Linked to period of restriction (Spring / Summer, Tier System National lockdown, Roadmap)
- Rate Payer ?
- Specific Criteria e.g. demonstrate a loss
- Application form
- Speed versus Accountability

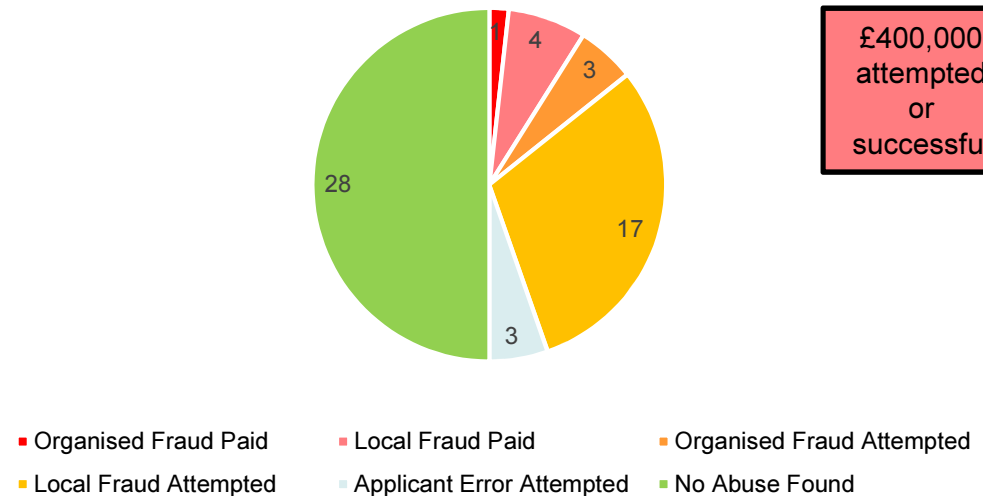
The Importance of Checking

**The Results of Checking –
Spring / Summer Schemes
2,062 applications**



571 Rejected

Results of 56 Cases Referred for Investigation



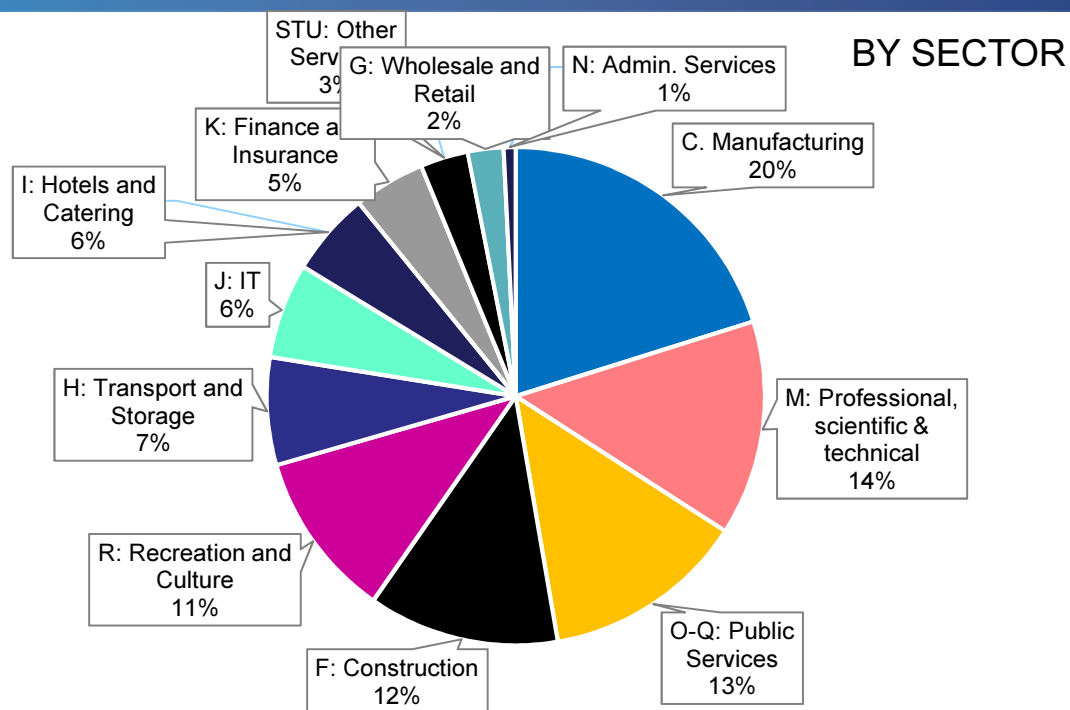
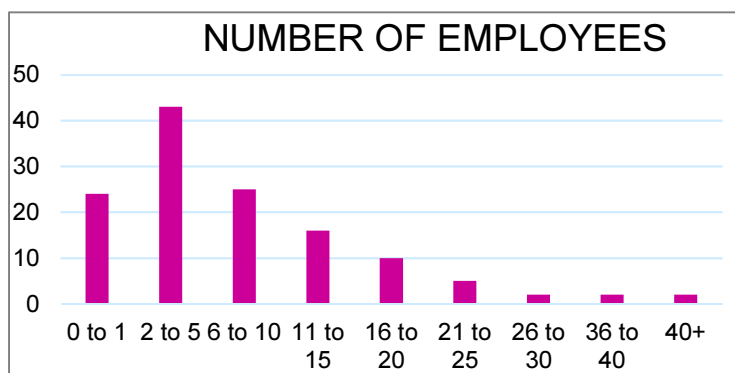
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Spring / Summer Schemes

Scheme	Value of Grant	Number Paid	Total Value paid
Small Business	£10,000	1,089	£10,890,000
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure	£10,000 or £25,000	402	£7,905,000
Discretionary Scheme	£2,500, £5,000, £7,500, £10,000	150	£1, 019,000
Totals		1,641	£19,814,000

- All business rates payers or operate from commercial property
- All LADGF funding was paid out to businesses
- LADGF included payments by instalment for 21 market traders

Who We Helped (LDGF)



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Current Schemes In a Picture

		3 weeks 6 days (27 days)	3 weeks 3 days (24 days)	1 week 3 days (10 days)		6 weeks (42 days)	2 weeks 6 days (20 days)	3 weeks 3 days (24 days)		
	Up to 4 Nov 20	5 Nov - 1 Dec	2 Dec - 25 Dec	26 Dec - 29 Dec	30 Dec - 4 Jan	5 Jan - 15 Feb 21	16 Feb - 07 Mar 21	08 Mar - 31 Mar 21	Apr-21	Mar-22
Fareham alert level	Tier 1 (Medium)	National Lockdown	Tier 2 (High)	Tier 4 (stay home)	Tier 4 (stay home)	National Lockdown	National Lockdown	Roadmap Step 1	ukn	ukn
Grant Schemes		LRSB (Closed) Addendum 1				LRSB (Closed) Addendum 2	LRSB (Closed) Addendum 3			
				LRSB (Closed) Addendum: Tier 4						
			LRSB (Closed) 1							
			LRSB (Open) 1							
			CSP (wet pubs)							
						Closed Business Lockdown Payment (RHL Top Up)			Restart Grants	
		ARG T1								
			ARG T1M (Markets) [from 14 December 2020]							
			ARG T2 Part 1 [Until 19 March 2021] - 12 weeks							
							ARG T2 Part 2	ARG Top Up		
							ARG Taxi			
								Other Wider support schemes		

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Business grants – Current mandatory

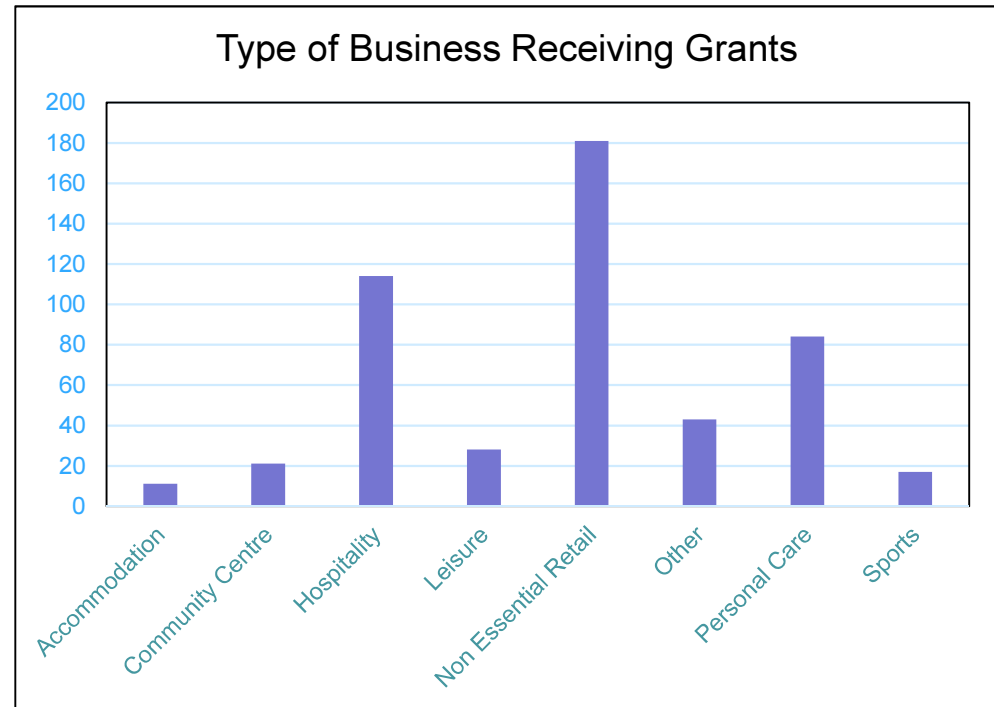
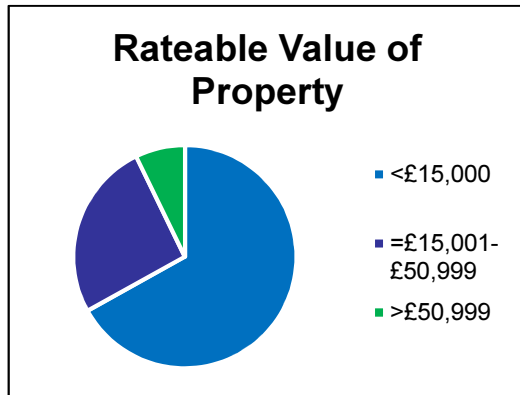
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) + T4 + Addendum
- Christmas Support for Wet-led pubs – Now closed
- Closed Business Lockdown

Open to Businesses
in Properties with
Higher RV - But state
aid....

Rate Payers Forced to
Close

- £4.9 million has been paid to local businesses under the “closed” schemes, and funds are still available for new applicants.

LRSg To Date

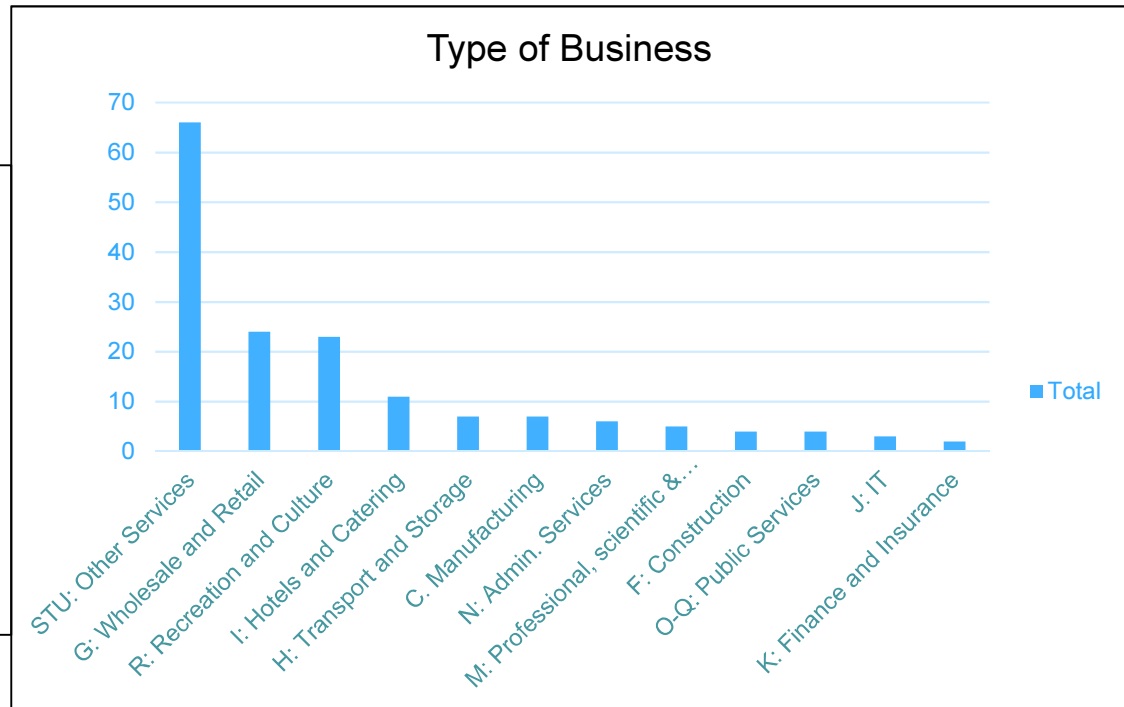
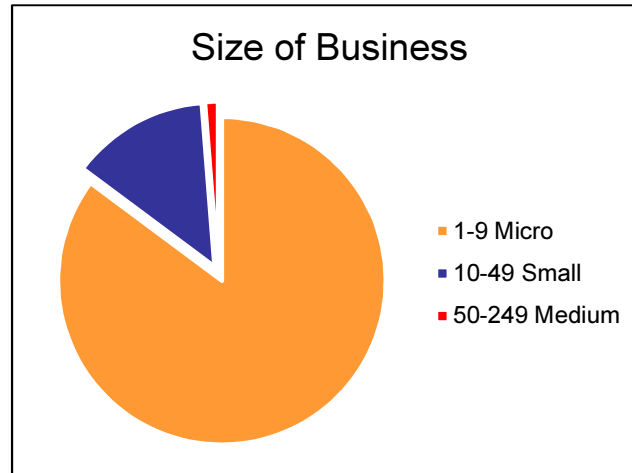


Business grants – Current discretionary

- Schemes are defined by local authorities
- LRSG-Open
- ARG schemes Principles agreed in December
 - Tranche 1 – businesses that have suffered a loss of at least 15% during the November lockdown
 - Tranche 2 – businesses that have suffered a loss of at least 15% during the November lockdown – to 31 December 2020 and January 2021
 - Market Support
 - Taxi Support
 - 'Wider support' – designed in consultation with businesses (next slide)

ARG is open to businesses run from domestic properties!

ARG To Date



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ARG: Wider support

20% of ARG fund allocated = £465,000

Added in £20,000 from Economic Recovery Plan

Aimed at ways to help businesses help themselves

Designed in consultation with the business community, but there are government boundaries, e.g. rate relief.

Short survey undertaken in January 2021

315 responses within ten days

Sent to Council database and via FSB and Chamber of Commerce

Survey Results

- General Business Advice Consultation
- Specific areas of help arising
 - Legal advice
 - Building on-line sales platform
 - Marketing including use of social media
 - Developing a delivery mechanism
 - Diversification

Local Businesses Covid Response Survey

Introduction

Fareham Borough Council has received Government funding through the Additional Restrictions Grants Scheme to support local businesses and the economy which have been impacted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following short survey asks businesses directly what support they would find most useful to survive the pandemic and recover afterwards.

The information you provide will help the Council decide how best to use the funding to assist businesses.

You have until 11.59pm on the 16th January 2021 to complete the survey.

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Other Financial Support

- Leisure centre assistance (previously mentioned)
- Creditors payment terms changed
- Negotiated with businesses on rent and rates terms

END OF PART TWO

Questions?

