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Discretionary Business Grants

We are pleased to report that the delayed **Stockport MBC application portal** has gone live late this afternoon and can now be accessed at

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/support-for-businesses-and-employers/discretionary-grant-scheme>

As a reminder, this scheme is designed for businesses with '**relatively high ongoing fixed property-related costs**' who have not been eligible for existing Coronavirus business rates grants.

Stockport MBC have also provided a short FAQ document

https://assets.ctfassets.net/ii3xdrqc6nfw/4JXXpg79o1kS3bkzQliGGu/30525d031e8d06a4f624070412a77a5f/Frequently_Asked_Questions_for_the_Stockport_Council_for_Local_Authority_Discretionary_Grants_Fund.pdf

Applications must be submitted by **5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020**.

If you are interested in applying for a grant and your business is not based in the Stockport area you should contact your Local Authority immediately to ask about their application process. Each Local Authority is administering the scheme independently.

The funding will be used to support the following types of businesses:

- Small businesses in shared office or other flexible work spaces

- **Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible work spaces**
- **Regular Market Traders** who do not have their own business rates assessment
- **Bed and Breakfasts** which pay Council Tax instead of business rates
- **Charity properties** in receipt of charitable business rates relief

The SMBC portal will only allow the above businesses to apply as you have to choose one of these categories on the first page of the application.

The Discretionary grants will be capped up to a maximum of £25,000, although it is expected that the majority of the grants will be for less than £10,000.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (JRS)

Following various newspaper articles over the bank holiday weekend we have had a number of clients contact us in the last few days asking what changes are being made to the scheme from 1 August 2020.

As of close of business tonight there have not been any further announcements about these changes and anything you may have read in the press is only speculation. We expect to have a formal announcement later this week.

As a reminder the JRS is being extended by four months to the end of October. The scheme was due to end on 30 June 2020.

The scheme will continue in its current form until 31 July 2020 but changes will be made from 1 August 2020. The detail is expected in the next few days but will include the following:

- employers will be able to bring back furloughed employees part-time (currently this is not possible and an employee must do no work for a continuous period of at least three weeks to qualify); and
- employers will be required to share the costs of paying furloughed employee's salaries (currently the government pays 80% of a furloughed employee's salary and the employer has the option to top this up to 100%).

The Chancellor did make a further Treasury Direction last week that many

The Chartered Accountants made a further Treasury Direction last week that many people thought included these changes. However, this document simply clarified a number of points we already knew, including that the written agreement with the employee to cease all work must be retained until 30 June 2025, and an employee cannot contribute to any business activities or generate income whilst furloughed.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886959/CJRS_DIRECTION_No2_20_05_2020.pdf

The Allens Team



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