**Tameside Discretionary Grant Fund**

Tameside Council will launch Round 3 of the [Tameside Discretionary Grant Fund](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/discretionarygrantfund) on the 28th July. The fund is aimed at supporting micro and small businesses with high fixed property costs who have suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19 and who are unable to access other government funding schemes.

Round 2 closed on Thursday 9th July and there is approximately £1m of funding remaining for Round 3.

**Round 3 Eligibility:**
***NEW FROM 28th JULY***
·         Businesses from any sector with a rateable value of £15-51k

***STILL ELIGIBLE***
·         Businesses awaiting Valuation Office assessment that subsequently were not eligible for a Small Business Grant or Retail Hospitality & Leisure Grant
·         Registered charities not supported under the government set priority criteria
·         Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces. Examples could include mills, units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators which do not have their own business rates assessment; exclusions include businesses operating from domestic settings (including Airbnb operators) or those that do not have fixed, property related costs
·         Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment
·         Bed & breakfasts which pay council tax instead of business rates; and
·         Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

Businesses in domestic settings are not eligible unless they are Bed & Breakfasts which pay council tax instead of business rates.

It is important that any business considering an application reviews the [Tameside guidance before applying](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/discretionarygrantfund.).

There is limited, fixed funding remaining to the council from the government for this scheme and we aim to support as many businesses as possible with mainly grant allocations of up to £10,000 (grants of £25,000 will be made only in exceptional circumstances).

**With a deadline for applications 5pm on Thursday 13th August, and the need to provide robust evidence to support each application, we encourage all eligible businesses to apply as soon as possible to help ensure there are no delays in processing and awards.**

***If the fund is under/oversubscribed with the applications received, the council reserves the right to amend the grant levels to a pro-rata basis, based on the applications received and approved, as a way of dealing with this situation, should it arise. The council reserves the right to vary the terms of the scheme at any time, and without notice, should it be necessary to do so.***

To be eligible (please review Tameside guidance in detail) to apply for a grant under this scheme, a small business must:

* Be a trading business in Tameside
* Have been trading and engaged in the businesses activities on 11th March 2020
* Be small, with fewer than 50 employees
* Have a rateable value below £51,000
* Have relatively high ongoing fixed property-related costs (over £1,000 per annum) in Tameside, and
* They must also be able to demonstrate that they have had a significant drop of income due to coronavirus restriction measures (10% fall in income in the period since 11 March 2020).

In order for the application to be considered, we require businesses to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria above. We anticipate that to do this, you will need to provide per business, per hereditament (Where an eligible business has more than one qualifying property in the borough, they will be eligible for 1 payment per property. Where multiple businesses operated from the same property, each distinct eligible business can receive one payment for their costs incurred at that property).

* **Evidence of Tameside property costs such as rent, rates, utility or mortgage payments above £1,000 per annum. This should take the form of leases/agreements showing an obligation to pay and bank statements showing that payments have actually been made**
* **Evidence to demonstrate a substantial loss in income as a result of the current situation (10% fall in income in the period since 11 March 2020). This is likely to be in the form of filed accounts for previous years and management accounts/bank statements for the current period and / or evidence that the business was too close to members of the public as a result of COVID-19 by government guidance. Where a company does not have filed accounts for the previous year’s management accounts and bank statements will be used**
* **Evidence of complying with the definition of a small or micro business**
* **Where applicable a copy of their business rates bill, demonstrating a Rateable Value of between £15,000 and £51,000**
* **Confirmation that the business has not received any grant under the grant schemes mentioned in the eligibility criteria**
* **Confirmation of State Aid compliance**

**Timeline**

* Applications open – 4pm Tuesday 28 July.
* Applications close – 5pm Thursday 13 August
* Payment of grants –19 August onwards

Applications for the grant can be [made online](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/discretionarygrantfund) or if you are unable to apply online please email tamesidegrant@tameside.gov.uk to request a printed copy to be emailed or posted to you.