

# BUSINESS FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANT GUIDANCE NOTE

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#### Purpose of the Fund

In November 2024, Storm Bert brought severe weather with over a month's worth of rain falling in a very short period. Subsequently a significant number of businesses were severely impacted by the flooding that followed.

The Business Flood Resilience Grant will provide support for businesses to implement measures to their properties, which they have identified will improve their business resilience in dealing with any such potential weather events in the future.

### Who can apply?

Priority will be given to small and medium size businesses that can evidence they were affected by flooding during Storm Bert.

Businesses must be recorded on the Non-Domestic Rates register.

#### What Can It Fund?

Examples of the type of works the grant could support include;

- Internal Doors
- Floodgates to doorways
- Waterproof floor coverings and skirting
- Internal moisture resistant wall boarding
- Raising of power points
- Non return valves
- Internal storage for stock and/or equipment

If you do not own the property, you will need to provide written consent from the Landlord to undertake the works.

#### How much can I apply for?

The Fund can contribute 100% towards eligible project costs up to maximum grant of £10,000. If you are registered for VAT you can apply for the cost of non-recoverable VAT only.

### How do I apply?

You will need to complete a brief Expression of Interest form and return it to regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk

If your proposal is eligible, we will contact you and invite you to submit a full application form with all the required supporting information specified in the form.

# How will my application be processed?

Your application will be subject to an initial validation check to ensure you have submitted all the correct information.

If your application cannot be validated, it will be returned to you explaining why it cannot be progressed at the current time. You are then welcome to re-submit your application when you are able to provide all the necessary information.

If your application is validated, it will be assessed and you will be notified of the outcome.

If successful you will receive a letter with the detail of the grant and its terms and conditions. If you wish to accept the grant you will need to sign and return the terms and conditions.

There is no guarantee that all applications will be successful.

# How will the grant be paid?

Payment will usually only be made at the end of your project on submission of the following;

- Invoices
- public liability insurance
- confirmation of any statutory consents e.g. planning permission / building regulations (if applicable)
- photographic evidence of equipment purchased / works undertaken

Payment will usually only be made on the lowest cost, be that the original quotation price or the final invoice price.

Grant payment will not;

- be made upfront / in advance
- be made directly to suppliers/contractors
- be made for any costs you have incurred prior to the date of the grant offer (even in the form of refundable deposits)

#### **Subsidy Control – Minimal Financial Assistance**

Under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, a subsidy is where a public authority provides support to an business that gives them an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms.

Grant support provided by the Business Growth Grant is offered under Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA). MFA has a financial threshold which means that <u>no recipient can receive more than £315,000 over the applicable period</u> under section 36(1) of the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

The following should all be taken into account when calculating the amount of MFA your business has received during the current and previous two financial years:

- Other MFA
- Services of Public Economic Interest (SPEI)
- Aid given under the EU State aid de minimis regulations before the end of the implementation period of 31 December 2020 and
- Subsidies given as small amounts of financial assistance (SAFA) under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement prior to this section of the Act coming into effect.

If your application is successful, you will be asked to confirm in writing that the grant offer will not exceed your organisations MFA threshold of £315,000.

If you are unsure whether any previous support you have received is classed as MFA, please contact the organisation that provided it.