

# COVID-19 Business Support Grants

- Core focus since start 2020 has been management of Scottish Government business support grants schemes.
- Extensive staff resources deployed to administer the schemes and handle the volume of complex enquiries.
- Number of applications received across the main schemes being administered by the Perth&Kinross Council are as follows:
  - Strategic Framework Business Fund: **2,761**
  - Discretionary Fund: **456**
  - Large Self Catering and Exclusive Use Venues Fund: **192** (eligible properties)
  - Small Accommodation Providers Paying Council Tax Fund: **60**
- Council managing a scheme for Taxi and Private Hire Drivers.

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- Consideration has had to be given to the range of other funds including the Tourism Sector Specific; Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund and Mobile and Home Based Close Contact Services Fund with enquiries directed to appropriate scheme
- Existing Scottish Government schemes have closed to new applications and only the Discretionary Fund remains open
- This fund is intended as a fund of last resort for businesses that have otherwise been ineligible for other schemes or have somehow “fallen through the cracks”
- Businesses supported through SFBF/SAPF should also be in line for a further recovery “top up” in April 2021

# Economic Wellbeing Plan

- Perth & Kinross Council Economic Wellbeing Plan 2020-2028 developed by Covid-19 Business Support Task Force
- Following input from elected members the plan is being finalised in line with revenue budget position
- Council will consider the plan on 30 March 2021
- Work is underway on short - medium term actions
- Further refinement may be needed in relation to the Place Theme once the Council's overall capital budget position is agreed in September 2021
- <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/housing-environment/economic-wellbeing-plan-consultation/>

# Budget 2021/22

- PKC approved its 2021/22 budget on 10 March 2021.
- Number of non recurring “budget motions” for one financial year only to support economic recovery.
- **Marketing of Perth and Kinross: £250K**
  - promotion of Perth and Kinross as a must visit destination
  - promotion of a local goods and services campaign
  - creation of a Visitor Management Fund to assist rural communities
- **Ranger Service: £240K in 2021/22**
  - To introduce a Ranger Service for two years on a pilot basis (with a commitment of a further £240K in 2022/23)
- **Open For Business Fund: £200K**
  - 50% grants to encourage small town businesses to ensure that the frontages of their premises are updated, resources to support grants for a town and city centre empty property initiative, pop-up shops and a general freshening up of our high streets

# Budget 2021/22

- **Adapt Your Property: £350K**
  - 50% grants up to a maximum of £50,000 to convert underused/vacant town and city centre commercial space for new commercial/residential uses
- **Support for Businesses: £200K**
  - To provide microgrants to small businesses for start-up or expansion costs, such as the purchase of equipment or website development
- **Perth and Kinross Skills Passport**
  - £125,000 investment in 2021/22 with a further £125,000 commitment towards 2022/23.
  - This funding will provide grants of up to £2,000 to assist 125 people back into work through the provision of financial assistance for help such as training courses or equipment