



CATHERINE WEST MP

Member of Parliament for Hornsey and Wood Green

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

9 June 2020
Our Ref: ZA8368

Dear Rishi,

Local authority grant payments to support businesses

I am writing to urge that the Government gives local authorities more flexibility to spend the grant funding provided to help our crucial local businesses through these difficult times.

The London Borough of Haringey has been allocated £56.312 million of Government funding and, over recent weeks, has worked incredibly hard to allocate £40.785 million to eligible businesses and set aside £3.13 million to support businesses through the Discretionary Grant Fund (DGF).

Yet even with these efforts, there remains £12.4 million of unspent grant. This in no way reflects the level of need within Haringey where 95% of our business base is small and medium enterprises (SME) and where many businesses have seen their incomes completely disappear leaving many struggling to survive. Extending the eligibility criteria would allow Haringey Council to support businesses that have currently fallen outside of the scope of the current scheme including park cafes, social enterprises, retail outlets where they are not the ratepayer, community groups, the 288 local businesses with a rateable value of just over £51,000, places of worship, hospices, care homes and suppliers to the retail, hospitality and leisure (RHL) sector. It would also enable them to expand the Discretionary Grant Fund which currently in no way reflects the level of demand.

This money has already been allocated by the Government so extending the criteria to back more businesses would require no additional funding. Crucially, enabling Haringey Council to support more businesses would play a significant role in enabling our local economy to recover and protecting jobs as we come out of lockdown.

Please can you address this as a matter of urgency and allow local authorities to be flexible with this grant funding to provide businesses with the support they need to get through this difficult time and back on their feet?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine West

