



**For Immediate Release**

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**PR 9974**

### **Grants to provide funding boost for borough's hospitality businesses**

Hospitality businesses across the borough are being encouraged to apply for grants for new outdoor equipment as part of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's support for businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The council's new outdoor seating hospitality grant scheme aims to support hospitality businesses including restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes in the borough to create or extend outdoor seating areas which will allow them to serve more customers as COVID restrictions remain in place.

Grants of up to £3,000 will be available for businesses to purchase additional tables, chairs, planters, gazebos and marquees and outdoor ambient lighting.

To benefit from this funding, businesses will need to:

- have a current and valid business rates account with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as of 21 June 2021.
- be registered as a food business with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as of 21 June 2021.
- have a premises licence, if applicable, from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as of 21 June 2021.

For more information and to apply to the scheme, please visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/outdoor-seating-hospitality-grant-scheme](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/outdoor-seating-hospitality-grant-scheme). The closing date for applications is Friday 30 July.

Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "We recognise how difficult the last year has been for all businesses across the borough and in particular, our hospitality sector.

"We are keen to help in any way we can so I am pleased that we have been able to make additional funding available for hospitality businesses as part of our commitment to supporting local businesses as we look ahead to the recovery from the pandemic.

"With restrictions being eased, this funding will help increase outdoor seating capacity and enable more people to safely enjoy what our great local pubs, bars and restaurants have to offer with their family and friends this summer."

**ENDS**

Any questions via email to [customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk) or by phone on 01256 844844.

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