

Report to Downham Market Town Council

Borough Councillor Josie Ratcliffe

15th March 2022

Business Support

The COVID Omicron grant has been extended to include additional businesses but must close this Friday, 18 March 2022.

Originally offered to the hospitality and leisure sector, now personal care businesses, certain supply chain businesses to those adversely affected by the Omicron variant and taxi drivers who have been impacted by cancellations due to the Omicron variant can apply for a one-off payment of £500.

More information on the main grant is on the [Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants](#) page and for the discretionary grant is on the [Discretionary Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants](#) page of the Borough Council website.

Green Homes Grant scheme

The Borough Council has secured some funding for householders to receive improvements to insulation and heating and is open to homeowners, private tenants and landlords, where the home has a low energy rating and a low annual income. Further information here: [Homes in West Norfolk encouraged to check eligibility for Green Homes Grant scheme ahead of energy price cap increase](#)

Downham Market Library

Healthwatch Norfolk will be visiting Downham Market Library to gather experiences of health and social care services in the area, to make sure they are heard by the people in charge of services. Residents are invited to share feedback on GP surgeries, hospitals, dentists, care homes, pharmacies and more on **Friday 25th March** 10:30am – 12:30pm.

All Norfolk libraries have a range of bags of essential products for those in need, who are welcome to just '**Grab and Go**' with no questions or forms:

- Tricky Period (Pads Pack / Menstrual Cup / Reusable Pads)
- Toiletries To Go
- Cleaning To Go
- Keep Warm and Go
- Emergency Waterproof Bivi Bag for those who are homeless.

Note some bags will only be available until the end of March. Funding for the bags comes from the Household Support fund. Residents who are struggling to afford necessities may be able to get help from the [Norfolk Assistance Scheme](#)