

Coronavirus Business Advice and Support – Update Friday 17 July 2020

The information in this newsletter is correct as of Friday 17 July 2020, but we suggest monitoring the key webpages outlined below as well as the [Council's website](#) for the latest updates.

Sources of information and support for businesses

The Government's [Business Support Helpline](#) number is FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098. The helpline provides free, impartial business support and signposting services to businesses in England – which currently includes business advice on Covid-19.

You can also find free support, advice and sources of finance through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [Growth Hub](#) or [speak to an advisor](#) on webchat about support for your business.

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1. Brexit – what you can do now

✔ Check 🟡 Change ✔ Go

The UK has left the EU and the transition period after Brexit comes to an end this year with new rules coming in to play from January 2021.

The Government has launched a public [information campaign](#) called 'The UK's new start: let's get going'. A [checker tool](#) will identify the specific steps that any business or individual needs to take to be ready, and will allow companies to sign up for bespoke updates. Taking these steps will help to equip businesses for when we exit the transition period.

The Government has also announced controls will be placed on the movement of goods between Great Britain and the EU, with new border controls being introduced in three stages up until 1 July 2021. Details can be found in the [Border Operating Model](#). To help businesses prepare for these changes and continue to trade, [guides on how to import and export goods](#) are available in the form of a 'journey', so that you can clearly see every step you need to take to ensure that your goods are transported successfully. More detailed guidance for UK businesses [moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland](#) will be available in the coming weeks.

Further details on the [new points-based immigration](#) system from 1 January 2021 is also available.

2. Grants, funding and Finance

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme –key dates

- **Claiming for employees furloughed on or before 30 June.** Claim by 31 July for employees furloughed through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) for periods ending on or before 30 June.
- **Get ready for changes from 1 August.** Employers will no longer be able to use a CJRS grant to cover National Insurance (NI) and pension contributions for furloughed employees from 1 August. You can submit August claims in advance, from 20 July.
- **Working out your claims.** Use HMRC's online examples and [calculator](#) to help work out what you can claim, for claims ending on or before 31 July. From 10 July you will also be able to use these to help you work out claims ending on or before 31 August.
- **Made a mistake on your claim?** You can now [delete a claim online](#) within 72 hours of submitting it.
- More information on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is [available](#).

Arts Council National Lottery project grants

The Arts Council is reopening [National Lottery Project Grants](#) on 22 July 2020 which will focus on supporting independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers. Guidance will be published from mid-July.

Arts and culture

[The Cultural Impact Development Fund](#) offers small-scale repayable finance from £25,000 to £150,000 to socially-driven arts and cultural organisations. The funding can be used, among other things, to acquire new assets, improve built infrastructure, develop new ventures or scale up existing revenue streams.

Arts & Culture Impact Fund

[The Arts & Culture Impact Fund](#) is a new £20 million social impact investment fund for the UK's arts, culture and heritage social enterprises. The fund offers loans to organisations in the arts, cultural or heritage sector of between £150,000 and £1 million, repayable over a period of up to 10 years.

The Community Justice Fund

The [Community Justice Fund](#) is an initiative to help specialist social welfare legal advice organisations cope with the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the foundations for longer-term renewal. Grants will be made in two waves:

- **Wave one** is open now and will provide flexible grants to organisations that meet their eligibility criteria and priorities. They understand that organisations have been responding quickly to the situation, so grants can be used towards the costs of your work from 1 April 2020.
- **Wave two** will, subject to fundraising, open in the autumn this year and provide flexible grants in support of their aims, responding to ongoing needs and building on the promising work arising out of wave one.

They anticipate making grants in the range of £25,000 to £75,000, but may be able to make larger grants in certain circumstances.

Barrow Cadbury Trust COVID-19 Support Fund for specialist migration sector

Barrow Cadbury Trust is partnering with the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) to distribute COVID-19 emergency response funding to the migration charity sector in England. If you are a charity or not-for-profit organisation registered in England with an income of between £10,000 and £1 million whose main focus is on providing support to refugees, asylum seekers or migrants, you can apply for a [grant](#).

COVID-19 Community-Led Organisations Recovery Scheme

The COVID-19 [Community-Led Organisations Recovery Scheme](#) offers grants of up to £100,000 to community organisations who are facing financial difficulties caused by COVID-19. The scheme is aimed at organisations delivering services in their local community to support people who are at high risk from COVID-19, with an emphasis on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)-led or BAME-supporting businesses. The recovery scheme will open for applications on Tuesday 28 July 2020, from 10am-1pm. And then for a further two rounds on Tuesday 4 August 2020, from 10am-1pm, and Tuesday 11 August, from 10am-1pm.

Social Enterprise Support Fund

Big Issue Invest has come together with a number of other organisations to deliver £18.7 million in grants to help social enterprises during COVID-19. [The Social Enterprise Support Fund](#) will provide essential financial support between £10,000 and £300,000. Applications close on 20 July 2020.

3. Innovation funding and support

Supply Chain Refill Infrastructure Grant

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has announced that £475,000 of [funding](#) has been made available for refill projects in the second round of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) competition.

With funding coming from the UK Government's Plastics Research and Innovation Fund (PRIF) as part of the UK Circular Plastics Flagship Projects, the competition will award grants of £50,000-£150,000 to projects that trial new ways of implementing refill infrastructure in existing or new supply chains. The deadline for expressions of interest is 6 August 2020.

4. Support for businesses

Championing Business

The Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce has announced the launch of an exciting new community-wide business initiative to help foster individual and collective growth and forge cohesive working partnerships and engagement within our local areas.

[Local Business Champions](#) are representatives of any business in the area that wants to be part of a community that drives activities for the benefit of the whole community, that wants to play a part in the success of the local economy, and is committed to working collectively to promote and drive the economy forward. Business owners simply need to sign up via the [Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce website](#).

To learn more about the initiative you can attend the Chambers' first [Championing Business](#) session on Thursday 23 July or one of the fortnightly Championing Business events that will follow the launch.

Advice and guidance for small businesses and the self-employed

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) offers [advice](#) on:

- When you can reopen your business
- Opening your business safely
- Looking after your staff
- What to do if you can't reopen
- Looking after your physical and mental health

Eat Out to Help Out Scheme

The Government has [updated](#) the 'What happens next' section in its guidance on the scheme to include the registration information that is available to the public. The 'Register' section now gives more information about which Government Gateway ID you can use.

There are also new [posters, images and other promotional materials](#) for use by establishments who are taking part in the Eat Out To Help Out Scheme. There is also a [new page](#) to help people find a restaurant in their area that is offering the discount.

Advice for Employers and Employees

ACAS – Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Services – is running a series of [webinars](#) to outline practical measures and details on Government support and available resources for employers covering The Flexible Furlough Scheme, Managing a Fair Disciplinary Process, and Managing Mental Health.

Queen's Awards for Enterprise

The Government is promoting local business [entries](#) to the prestigious Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2021.

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of UK businesses in the fields of:

- Innovation
- International Trade
- Promoting Opportunity (through social mobility)
- Sustainable Development

In order to meet the eligibility criteria, your company must:

- Be based in the UK
- File its tax return with HM Revenue and Customs
- Be a self-contained enterprise
- Have at least two full-time employees or part-time equivalents

- Demonstrate strong corporate and social responsibility

The local [Business Support and Development team](#) at South Cambridgeshire District Council will be happy to answer any questions you may have relating to the awards.

Online business support

Amazon has partnered with Enterprise Nation to launch a free 'Small Business Accelerator' which is an [online educational programme](#) for anyone looking to launch a new online business, or grow an existing one.

Commercial waste

If Greater Cambridge Waste collects your rubbish, please note that they are still collecting business waste if bins are placed in their usual locations. If you'd like to suspend your collections, please email trade@scamb.gov.uk.

5. Keeping your workplace safe

Face coverings

Face masks/coverings will be compulsory in all shops and supermarkets from 24 July 2020. The Government has issued advice and [guidance](#) on the rules for wearing face coverings, to include exemptions, and advice on workplace rulings.

COVID-19: Cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside of the home

The Government has updated [guidance](#) with advice on cleaning and waste management that does not relate to a suspected or confirmed case, taking into account current levels of community transmission.

Disposing of personal and business waste – including PPE

The Government has published guidance on the [disposal of waste](#) including face coverings and personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus outbreak.

Guidance for managing beaches, the countryside and coastal areas

The Government has brought together [guidance](#) aimed at supporting the owners and operators of beach, countryside and coastal destinations in meeting the challenges associated with increased visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guidance on the safe use of community buildings

The Government has issued [guidance](#) for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities on safely reopening multi-purpose buildings.

Actions for further education providers during coronavirus outbreak

The Government advice for [guidance](#) on supporting vulnerable young people and learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has been updated to include 'What FE colleges and providers will need to do from the start of the 2020 autumn term'.

Working Safely during coronavirus: Cyber security

The Government has launched a free [webinar](#), taking place on Wednesday 22 July at 11am, to find out more about the most common cyber threats faced by businesses and how to mitigate being the victim of a cyber incident.

6. Other Government guidance

Planning update on cultural venues and holiday parks

The Government published [questions and answers](#) as part of the 14 July 2020 [announcement](#) on preventing loss of cultural venues and planning conditions for holiday parks.

Destroying spoilt beer, cider, wine or made-wine during coronavirus

Guidance on how spoilt beer can be re-purposed has been [updated](#).

Self-employment Income Support Scheme

Information has been [updated](#) to include guidance on what to do if you think you have been overpaid.

Providing apprenticeships during coronavirus

The Government has updated information and guidance for [providing apprenticeships](#) during the coronavirus outbreak, including advice and support on redundancy.

Coronavirus: Driving tests

The Government has updated its [driving tests guidance](#). Driving tests for cars will recommence in England on 22 July 2020. The [guidance](#) for driving instructors and motorcycle trainers about the restart of driver and rider training and tests has also been updated.

Audiences back in theatres from 1 August

[Indoor performances](#) with socially-distanced audiences will be able to take place across the country from 1 August.

Government updates on social distancing and easing of restrictions

The Government has updated [guidance](#) on the closure of certain businesses and venues as part of further social distancing measures, and on the further easing of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in July and August 2020.