

South Cambridgeshire

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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## Business Advice and Support

Wednesday 9 September 2020

**Welcome to the latest newsletter created by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Business Support and Development Team.**

In addition to the information in this newsletter, we suggest monitoring the [Council](#) and [Government](#) websites for the most up to date information and support for businesses during the pandemic.

Our dedicated [Business Support team](#) can assist with all business related enquiries – please get in touch with us and we will help you find the advice and support you need.

To keep updated on the news from the council, Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#)

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# 1. Brexit – updates and reminders

✔ Check   🔄 Change   ✔ Go

'[The UK's new start: let's get going](#)' government campaign includes a [checker tool](#) to identify the steps that businesses or individuals need to take ahead of the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December. The tool enables business to answer seven key questions which will return information specific to your business sector on the steps you need to take.

There are actions your business can take now to prepare for the end of the transition period that are not dependent on the outcome of the negotiations. You can also [sign up to receive the government's regular Business Readiness Transition Bulletin](#) providing information on major announcements and recently published guidance.

## Cambridge Network – we need to talk about Brexit. Now!

Cambridge Network is hosting an event where Professor Catherine Barnard, Professor of European Union Law and the Jean Monnet Chair of EU Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge, will explain why it is important to get regulation right at the outset and why law underpins every aspect of how Brexit will play out. The event will take place on Friday 18 September, 10-11am and [registration](#) is free for Cambridge Network members with a £50 fee for non-members.

## The Federation of Small Businesses

Small businesses can find comprehensive advice via the Federation of Small Businesses website within the [Brexit section](#).

## The Chambers of Commerce

The Chambers of Commerce has a Brexit Hub containing detailed [information](#) on what businesses need to do to be ready for the end of the transition period.

The Chamber is also running 'Countdown to Change' [webinars, from](#) 22 September and counting down to the end of the transition period. They will take place 100 days, 75 days, 50 days and 30 days before the end of the transition period to guide businesses through the complexity of change in import and export processes, systems and controls. Webinar dates are 22 September, 16 October, 11 November and 1 December.

## Frontier workers

The government has updated the guidance on the rights and status of frontier workers – EU, EEA or Swiss citizens that regularly commute to the UK because they are employed or self-employed here but live elsewhere. The [guidance](#) covers frontier workers who want to continue to work in the UK and those who want to enter the UK from 1 January 2021.

## Reminder - grants for businesses completing customs declarations

The [customs grant scheme](#) is open for applications. £50 million has been invested as part of the measures to accelerate growth of the customs intermediary sector and help meet the increased demand it will see from traders at the end of the transition period.

Customs intermediaries – including customs brokers, freight forwarders and express parcel operators – as well as traders who complete their own declarations, are among those who can now apply for grant funding to support with:

- Training – where the grant will give you up to 100% of the actual costs of externally-provided training for your employees, up to a limit of £1,500 for each employee on the course. It will also cover the cost of training you run internally, up to a limit of £250 for each employee on the course.

- Hiring new staff to help your business complete customs declarations - the grant will give you £3,000 towards recruitment costs for each new employee. Up front recruitment costs will not be covered for an employee redeployed from another part of the business, unless this is part of an external recruitment campaign. You could also receive up to £12,000 to cover the salary costs for each new or redeployed employee.
- IT improvements to help your business complete customs declarations more efficiently - the grant will give you 100% of the costs relating to your IT expenditure to improve the efficiency of making customs declarations.

## 2. Coronavirus finance, business support and employment updates

### Kickstart Scheme

The government has launched the new [Kickstart Scheme](#) in Great Britain, a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long term unemployment.

Funding available for each job will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.

Funding is available following a successful application process. Applications must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. If you are unable to offer this many job placements, you can partner with other organisations with a nominated representative for a group of employers.

- If you are an employer looking to create job placements for over 30 young people, [check if you can apply for funding](#) as part of the Kickstart Scheme.
- If you are considering becoming a representative for a group of employers, [check what information you need to provide](#) to apply for a grant through the Kickstart Scheme.

The scheme will be managed through The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and, whilst local representatives are currently being sourced for businesses looking to offer less than 30 placements, you can initially register your interest with the [Business Support team](#). We will be happy to answer any questions you may have and will provide more information and guidance as soon as it becomes available.

## **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme update**

From 1 September, the government will pay 70% of wages up to a maximum cap of £2,187.50 for the hours the employee is on furlough. Employers will top up employees' wages to ensure they receive 80% (up to £2,500).

From 1 October the government will pay 60% and employers will pay 20% of employees' wages for the time they are being furloughed. Employers will also continue to pay their National Insurance and pension contributions.

Further [guidance](#) is available on the scheme which will close on 31 October.

## **Second stage of Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) - reminder**

The second stage of the [Self Employment Income Support Scheme](#) is open for applications. Those eligible will now be able to receive a second and final grant worth 70% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total. The [eligibility criteria](#) remains the same as for the first grant, with people needing to have had trading profits of no more than £50,000, making up at least half of their total income. To make a claim for the second and final grant the business must have been affected on or after 14 July 2020. HMRC has published [guidance](#) on deciding if a businesses has been adversely affected by coronavirus. HMRC will contact all potentially eligible customers to advise them that they can claim for a second and final SEISS grant. The claim for the second and final grant must be made on or before 19 October 2020.

## **Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs)**

The [Bounce Back Loan](#) Scheme enables smaller businesses to access finance more quickly during the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme helps small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and up to 25% of their turnover. The maximum loan available is £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. After 12 months the interest rate will be 2.5% a year. If you need a larger loan, you may be entitled to [other government support](#).

## **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CIBILs)**

The [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan](#) Scheme provides financial support to smaller businesses affected by the pandemic. The scheme helps small and medium-sized businesses to access loans and other kinds of finance up to £5 million. The government guarantees 80% of the finance to the lender and pays interest and any fees for the first 12 months. If you're a larger business, you may be entitled to [other government support](#).

## **Coronavirus financial help for your business**

The government business support [finder](#) will enable you to find what support is available to employers and the self employed, including sole traders and Ltd Company Directors. You may be eligible for loans and tax relief whether your business is open or closed.

## **Joint Biosecurity Centre Action Cards**

The Joint Biosecurity Centre has developed [Action Cards](#), which reflect the latest advice on how to identify, manage and report a coronavirus outbreak. The cards are designed as a useful visual checklist for operational teams and bring together guidance and useful contacts to support your organisation's planning. These products have been developed with local authority and public feedback and will help businesses and other organisations work effectively with their local public health teams.

## **Culture Recovery Fund**

Through the £1.57 billion [Culture Recovery Fund](#), the government is providing support for performing arts, heritage sites, independent cinemas, music venues and museums to help weather the impact of the pandemic.

Its #HereForCulture campaign has been launched to help support Britain's globally renowned arts, culture and heritage industries.

Organisations across these sectors are encouraged to apply for:

### **Arts Council England - £500m grants**

This grant is open for [applications](#) for cultural organisations (both profit and not for profit) that are at imminent risk of failure because of the pandemic and who need funding of up to £3m.

### **Arts Council England - £270m repayable finance fund**

This programme is for cultural organisations who need [funding](#) of over £3m. The programme offers financial support where organisations were financially sustainable before the pandemic but are now at clear risk of no longer trading viably by 31 March 2021, and have exhausted all other options for increasing their resilience.

### **Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas - £30m for independent cinemas**

The British Film Institute (BFI) will be administering this [grant](#) on behalf of the government. It is for building-based independent cinemas, who provide a year-round film programme, that are at risk of failure because of the pandemic.

## 3. Other Business Support

### The new team, here to help

The new Business Support and Development team at South Cambridgeshire District Council is keen to hear how we can help you and your business on the road to recovery - and beyond. Whether you need a helping hand with navigating your way through the Council's departments for planning advice or business rates, or to chat through how you can become more 'green' within your organisation, we are here to help. Other areas that we can offer free support and guidance on include:

- General business advice
- Help for new start-ups and for those upscaling a business
- Help with seeking potential funding support
- Recruitment and training
- Advice on apprenticeships and traineeships
- Finding business space
- Managing social media marketing
- Evolving your business to use digital and e-commerce platforms

We have two dedicated High Street support officers who are out and about visiting businesses to offer help and advice to ensure that you reopen safely, and have access to all the guidance and support you need. Drop us a line if a visit will help you.

We are also keen to hear what further support, training or information we can deliver through webinars or 1-2-1s that will help your business succeed and put you on the path to recovery. [Drop us an email](#). We will be more than happy to help.

### Start Up loans

Start Up loans provide government-backed personal loans for business purposes. They are available to individuals over the age of 18 who are eligible to start a



business in the UK. Generally, loans of up to £25,000 are available at a fixed rate of interest and are repayable over 1 to 5 years.

Delivery partners for the loans in the East of England are listed on our [website](#). In addition to helping applicants prepare their business plan and cash flow forecast, the delivery partners are responsible for assessing final loan applications and providing ongoing mentoring support to successful applicants.

## **Commercial waste**

If the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service Commercial Team collects your rubbish, please note that they are still collecting business waste if bins are placed in their usual locations. If you need to discuss your commercial waste collections or arrangements, please email [trade@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:trade@scambs.gov.uk).

# **4. Innovation and competitions**

## **Solar Together Cambridgeshire**

Solar panels are an excellent way to save money on energy bills and cut carbon emissions, and this is why South Cambridgeshire District Council is working with Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver [Solar Together Cambridgeshire](#), a group-buying scheme to help businesses purchase high-quality and competitively priced solar panels and battery storage systems for solar panels. You have to be the owner of the roof on which you want to install a solar panel system, or have the explicit approval of the owner, in order to participate. Small and medium-sized enterprises and Commonhold Associations meeting this criterion can participate as well.

[Register](#) your interest by 6 October.

## **SMART grants - reminder**

Smart is Innovate UK's 'Open grant funding' competition. Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is investing up to £25 million in the best game-changing and commercially viable innovative or disruptive ideas. All proposals must be business focused.

Applications can come from any area of technology and be applied to any part of the economy, such as, but not exclusively:

- the arts, design and media
- creative industries
- science or engineering

The competition is open to a wide variety of innovations with the potential to be game-changing. You can watch a [video](#) to find out more about the SMART grants opportunity. The competition will close Wednesday 25 November at 11am.

## **Women in Innovation Awards 2020/21**

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, is offering 10 Women in Innovation Awards to female entrepreneurs across the UK. The winners will [receive](#) a £50,000 grant and a bespoke package of mentoring, coaching and business support. The competition will close Wednesday 14 October at 11am.

## **Developing the UK's low carbon automotive capability**

The Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) invests up to £30 million, 3 times a year, in collaborative research and development (R&D) projects. These are pre-production match-funded projects. In this round APC is investing £27 million.

UK registered businesses can [apply](#) for a share of up to £27 million for UK-developed late stage R&D, to support growth in advanced low carbon propulsion capability in the automotive sector. This competition closes on Wednesday 14 October at 11am.

## **Designing sustainable plastic solutions**

This competition is to win [funding](#) for early-stage, human-centred design projects to reduce plastics' harm to the environment, increase productivity and grow the UK economy. This competition closes Wednesday 16 September at 12pm.

## **Manufacturing made smarter: digital supply chain, feasibility studies**

UK registered businesses can [apply](#) for funding towards feasibility studies into digital technologies to transform supply chains in UK manufacturing. This funding is from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. This competition will close Wednesday 7 October at 11am.

## **5. Events**

### **Cambridge Network - boosting your business through networking**

Do you want to learn the top 3 techniques that will help you explain what you do, how you do it and why people should choose you? Cambridge Network is holding a Zoom webinar on 17 September, 11am-12pm on how to boost your business through effective networking pitches. The session will be hosted by Sam Eaton who is a business breakthrough specialist with over 20 years' commercial expertise. The [event](#) is free for Cambridge Network members and there is a fee of £10 for non-members to attend.

### **Cambridge Network - virtual jobs and careers fair**

Cambridge Network is also hosting a free online [seminar](#) on 10 September, from 11am to 4pm, where a panel of experts and career and life coaches will be on hand to talk about the current recruitment market. Anne Bailey from Form the Future will be talking about why volunteering for local charities and not for profits might help people's job search, grow their network and increase their confidence.

### **Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) networking event**

The Federation of Small Businesses is holding a free networking [event](#), open to all businesses, both FSB members and non-members, and will be hosted by Jeremy Reeve from FSB with guest speaker Anne Bailey from Form the Future, who will give a talk on 'Reconnecting & Inspiring your employees: Giving back'. The event will take place on Wednesday 11 September, 10-11am, and will cover how small businesses

can reignite a sense of belonging and purpose in their staff. The event aims to provide the opportunity for you to meet and expand your network with other business owners in the Cambridgeshire area and share information.

## **Cambridge Independent SME Business Awards**

Due to the pandemic, Cambridge Independent has taken the decision to delay their SME Cambridgeshire Business Awards event from the original date in October, to 2021. This is to ensure the event can be held safely and enjoyably. The categories below have been re-opened for [entry](#) and will remain open until 10 November, 3.00pm:

- Apprentice of the year
- Business Innovation
- Business Person of the year
- Business of the year – less than 50 employees
- Business of the year – more than 50 employees
- Community Business of the year
- Employer of the year
- Entrepreneur of the year
- High Growth business of the year
- Networking group of the year
- Not for Profit business of the year
- The Green Award (sponsored by South Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Website of the year
- Young Business person of the year

## **Investors in the Environment awards (iiE) Programme of events**

Organisations from the whole of the UK are invited to join an online celebration of sustainability achievements. There will be a week-long series of webinars, which will take place from 5-8 October, to engage organisations with different environmental initiatives to inspire, influence and share best practice. The programme will culminate in the iiE Awards on International Clean Air Day (Thursday 8 October).

Hear from a range of inspiring speakers, including:

- **Jen Gale**, author of *The Sustainable(ish) Living Guide*
- **Stephen Prior**, Director of Forest Carbon
- **Hugo Tagholm**, Chief Executive of Surfers Against Sewage
- **Dr Peter Brotherton**, Climate Change Director at Natural England
- **Sean McCormack**, Vet, Founder of Ealing Wildlife Group and creator of *Sean's Wild Life* podcast
- **Alice Troiano**, Co-Founder and CEO of G.APP17
- **Andy Brown**, Head of Sustainability at Anglian Water Group
- **Kate Marx**, Campaigns and Social Research Manager at Waterwise

Pick and choose from a range of topics designed to cover many of the eco challenges your business may face, including: Zero waste(ish) tips for slimming your bin for the imperfectly green; The challenge of climate change and nature loss: thinking global, acting local for biodiversity and green spaces; Everything you need to know about reducing carbon: including offsetting, carbon neutrality and net zero; Water and the green recovery: why water saving matters and how to communicate that in your business; and Is your business looking forward? social responsibility, impact, and the future of business. You can [register](#) your free place and see the full event programme or join in the conversation online with #iiEAwards.

## 6. Procurement opportunities

### South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon Communities – procurement opportunities

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme is a pioneering scheme launched last year by South Cambridgeshire District Council to support community action on climate change. Round two of the Zero Carbon Communities Grant has recently launched and we wanted to share two procurement opportunities linked to this grant scheme.

#### Can you supply electric bikes/trikes?

The Council is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced [supplier to provide electric bikes/trikes for the Council to purchase](#), which the Council would pay for

directly. The aim of providing electric bikes/trikes is to help reduce the miles travelled in private vehicles and increase the take-up of cycling by people who would not otherwise cycle.

### **Energy efficiency support package**

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant will also provide funding for a variety of projects and services which will include improvements to community buildings to reduce the need for fossil fuel energy. If applications to our grant scheme for Community Building Energy Surveys are successful, we will require [a supplier to provide a cost effective, flexible, high quality and value for money energy efficiency support package](#) to cover all aspects of the building energy use.

This could include: Insulation and airtightness; Lighting efficiency, illumination levels and control; Heating and hot water generation, distribution and control; Ventilation and air-conditioning; IT, office and catering equipment; and Staff behaviour change.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council - 270 Cambridge Science Park rating**

The Council is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced agent to provide [consultation](#) on the valuations rating of one of its properties (270 Cambridge Science Park). Please respond by 11 September, at 1pm.