

South Cambridgeshire

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Business Advice and Support

22 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.

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.

Chambers of Commerce Custom Declaration training event

The Chambers of Commerce are holding a number of Zoom training events focussing on helping businesses with customs processes, procedures and documentation. The first event will be held on 6 October, from 10am to 3pm and will focus on highlighting what you need to know to be able to accurately complete a simple customs declaration. This event is priced at £280 for Chamber members, and £350 for non-members. To book your place(s) please contact Sadie Parr on 01223 209805 or email s.parr@cambscii.co.uk ensuring you include your company name, all delegate names and job titles, and a contact telephone number.

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 training, recruiting staff and IT improvements.

2. Coronavirus updates, finance and business

Venues required to enforce rule of 6

Hospitality venues in England are now [legally required to enforce the rule of 6](#) and maintain social distancing, or face a fine of up to £4,000.

Venues required by law to record contact details

The government has announced that premises and venues across England like pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and cinemas must have a system in place by law to record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff in the latest move to break the chains of transmission of Coronavirus.

Designated businesses and organisations, including hospitality, close contact services and leisure venues, will also be legally required to log details of customers, visitors and staff for NHS Test and Trace. From Thursday 24 September these sectors will be required to display official NHS QR code posters at their venue entrances to help support contact tracing:

- hospitality, including pubs, bars, restaurants and cafés
- tourism and leisure, including hotels, museums, cinemas and amusement arcades
- close contact services, including hairdressers, barbershops and tailors
- facilities provided by local authorities, including community centres, libraries and village halls

The new NHS COVID-19 app launches on Thursday 24 September and businesses can create a [QR Code poster](#) to display in their venue. Visitors then can scan the QR code when they arrive, using the NHS COVID-19 app. This is to help trace and stop the spread of coronavirus. Visitors will be able to check-in with the QR code when they arrive, making an easy and convenient way for your business to ensure legal compliance with Test and Trace and GDPR obligations.

If you have more than one venue, you need to create a separate QR code for each location. You can add multiple locations in the service.

Organisations can find out more about NHS QR codes and how to generate them on the [NHS COVID-19 app website](#).

Further [guidance](#) and, where necessary, regulations will be set out specifying the settings which will be included.

Restart and Recovery Kickstarting Tourism Grants to support SME's

As a part of a new National scheme that has just been launched the Cambridgshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) are administering the [COVID-19 Additional European Regional Development Fund](#) to Support SME Restart and Recovery and Kickstarting Tourism. Businesses in the Tourism and Visitor Economy sector should apply for a Kickstarting Tourism grant, while businesses from other sectors should apply for a Restart & Recovery grant.

Both schemes offer grants ranging from £1k to £3k and grants requested must be for 100% of project costs, otherwise your application will be rejected because items cannot be part funded. You can, however, include multiple items in your application, but they must total the full grant applied for. Note that our funding is limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Kickstart Scheme

The [Kickstart Scheme](#) has been launched and will fund 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. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) are acting as a local representative for the scheme. You can [register](#) your interest with CPCA and will be contacted to discuss your application.

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.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

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. The claim for the second and final grant must be made on or before 19 October 2020.

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) deadline

The deadline for applying for [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan](#) scheme is September 30. The scheme provides financial support to smaller businesses affected by the pandemic and 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.

3. Other Business Support

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Local Economic Recovery Strategy (LERS) – Have YOUR say

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have completed the final draft for the Local Economic Recovery Strategy and are asking for your feedback. They want your views on this final draft. You can download the [strategy and fill in a short survey](#) about your current situation and your thoughts about the survey itself. The consultation for this ends Midnight, Friday 25 September 2020.

Gigabit Broadband voucher scheme

The [Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme](#) (GBVS) is now in its second phase – to help homes and businesses in rural areas install a gigabit-capable, full fibre connection to their premises when part of a group scheme.

Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) can apply for vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each SME, and up to £1,500 per residential premise to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections.

Group schemes are when two or more residents and/or SMEs get together to combine their vouchers towards the shared cost of installation. Single connections are not eligible for additional funding.

Business Development and Support Team – help and advice

The Business Support and Development team at South Cambridgeshire District Council is here help you and your business on the road to recovery - and beyond. We know these have been testing times for businesses in our area, and there are new challenges ahead. We are committed to helping our local economy survive and thrive. With that in mind, we are holding a [free webinar event](#) on Tuesday 20 October

from 12:30pm to 1:30pm, and invite you to join us so that we can introduce ourselves, and for you to find out what we do, what we've done, and help shape how we can best help businesses in the future.

If you need any further advice on any item within this newsletter, or any other assistance please [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](#).

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.

4. Innovation, funding and competitions

Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The government has announced applications are now open for the £40 million [Green Recovery Challenge Fund](#), part of the government's wider green economic recovery which will create jobs and skills packages and bring forward funding for environmental charities and their partners to start work on projects across England to restore nature and tackle climate change.

All [projects must contribute](#) to at least one of the following themes of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund:

- nature conservation and restoration;
- nature-based solutions, particularly focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation such as through tree planting and restoring peatland; and,
- connecting people with nature

The fund will help create up to 3,000 jobs and safeguard up to 2,000 others in areas such as protecting species, finding nature-based solutions to tackling climate change, conservation rangers and connecting people with nature. Up to 100% of project costs will be available.

Solar Together Cambridgeshire – registration deadline reminder

We are 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.

Transport-Technology Research and Innovation Grants

Innovative transport start-ups with a focus on decarbonisation or COVID-19 recovery can [bid](#) for a share of over £1 million in Department for Transport funding. The latest round of Transport Technology Research and Innovation Grant funding is open to entrepreneurs and innovators looking to create a better transport system.

5. Events

Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Network Event

FSB are holding a virtual networking [event](#) hosted by Jeremy Reeve, FSB, and with guest speaker [Justin Leigh, Managing Director Focus4Growth](#) on Remote Selling

and Influencing to help you kick start growth in your business. The event will take place on September 23 from 10am to 11am and will provide the opportunity for you to meet and expand your network with other business owners in the Cambridgeshire area, and share information. This event is open to all businesses. Both FSB members and non-members are welcome to attend.

Cambridge Independent SME Business Awards

The Cambridge Independent Small Business awards celebrates the success of small businesses in Cambridgeshire. In light of COVID-19, the event has been moved and will now take place next year. A number of categories have been reopened for [entry](#) and will remain open until 10 November at 3pm.