

South Cambridgeshire

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Business Advice and Support

Monday 27 July 2020

The information in this newsletter is correct as of Monday 27 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.

Contents

In this newsletter you can find information about:

1. Brexit	2
2. Grants, funding and finance	2
3. Innovation funding and support	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4. Support for businesses	4
5. Keeping your workplace safe	6
6. Other Government guidance	7

1. Brexit – reminder

✔ Check 🔄 Change ✔ Go

The Government [information campaign](#) called 'The UK's new start: let's get going' includes a [checker tool](#) to identify the steps that any business or individual needs to take ahead of the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December. Taking these steps now will help to equip businesses for when new rules come in to play from January 2021.

2.Grants, funding and finance

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

From **1 September 2020** employers will have to start contributing to the wages of furloughed employees. Grants will be for 70% of usual wages in September and 60% in October, but furloughed employees will continue to be entitled to receive at least 80% of their usual wages. Employers will have to make up the difference from their own resources.

More information on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is [available](#)

Discretionary Grant Funding

Phase 2 of [funding applications](#) for community-led sports centres and independent pubs in South Cambridgeshire is open until Monday 3 August. This grant fund is aimed at supporting small businesses who have been impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, are struggling to survive, and are not eligible for existing Government support schemes such as the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund.

Through the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund (LADGF) we can dispense grants to the value £10,000 at the council's discretion.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme

Local groups can apply for grants of between £1,000-£15,000 under the councils [Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme](#). Applications are invited for projects on cycling, community building and planting and other 'nature-based' solutions. Applications close on 30 September.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development has announced [updates](#) confirming that contracts for existing RDPE socio-economic projects seriously affected by coronavirus can be extended by up to six months. Project holders should contact their delivery body project contact if they cannot meet their existing claim deadlines.

The [European Structural and Investment Funds programme](#) provides funds to help local areas grow. The funds support investment in innovation, businesses, skills and employment and creates jobs.

Community Match Challenge and Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership

The Government has announced the Community Match Challenge, which has been allocated £85 million, and invites philanthropists, foundations and grant making organisations to put forward new funding with an offer to match funds raised on a pound-for-pound basis. This funding is intended for those who are most vulnerable and have been hardest hit by the coronavirus outbreak. The Government expects awards to be made principally to charitable grant makers providing aid to small and medium-sized charities. [Applications](#) must be submitted by Sunday 2 August.

Community Radio Fund

Community radio stations that are facing severe financial difficulty and are at risk of closure due to the COVID-19 crisis can bid for grants to meet their urgent needs. The £400,000 [Community Radio Fund](#) administered by Ofcom will be redirected to provide emergency support for relevant stations to help meet their core costs. Applicants must be community radio licensees in the UK and be on air by the time applications are considered. Guidance will be provided from Ofcom on how radio stations can bid for funding. Applications close at 5pm on the 3 August.

Business and Academic Partnerships Funding

Up to £40 million of funding has been allocated to support businesses in collaborating with an academic or research organisation and a graduate on a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP). The KTP scheme enables businesses in the UK to innovate and grow by linking them with an academic or research organisation and a graduate.

The deadline for [applications](#) to this round is the 7 October.

3. Innovation Funding and Support

If you're a UK-based business or research organisation, you may be able to compete for government-backed [funding](#) to:

- research and develop a process, product or service
- test your innovation ideas
- collaborate with other organisations

4. Support for businesses

Employers skills survey

SSW (Skills Support for the Workforce) is gathering information on the skills gaps and training needs that small and medium businesses face in Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and invite you to undertake a [survey](#) to help establish training needs.

Funded training for employees

[SSW](#) is a programme developed to upskill employees within small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. SSW is co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and can support your workforce at no extra cost to your business.

Support for businesses from outside Government

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has updated the [list](#) of organisations that have produced additional resources that may be useful to employers and employees. The list now details the support offered by the National Federation of Self Employed & Small Businesses ([FSB](#)).

Creative Industries Webinar

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is hosting a national [webinar](#) on 31 July to offer advice and support to the creative industries sector. The webinar will include advice on where to get funding.

Blind Business Association Charitable Trust (BBACT)

If you are blind or partially sighted, the Blind Business Association Charitable Trust (BBACT) offers [advice](#) and support if you are considering starting a business, or you are already in business.

Rural Services Network Conference

The Rural Services Network (RSN) has launched the 2020 Rural Conference [online](#). It will run from Monday 14 – Friday 19 September with daily online seminars which are free for RSN members to join.

The Cambridge Independent Science and Technology Awards

The Cambridge Independent Science and Technology Awards are open to [entrants](#) within the Cambridge Independent circulation area. There are 15 categories to enter and the deadline for entry 31 July.

New tech event series to help regional businesses drive digital transformation

Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) in partnership with Cambridge Wireless has launched a new series of online [events](#) aimed at business leaders in the region looking to explore new technologies to accelerate growth and gain an edge for the future. These events are designed to introduce business leaders in the Greater Cambridge region to key technologies set to have a transformative effect on business in the next few years.

Queen's Awards for Enterprise – reminder

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious awards for UK businesses recognising and rewarding their outstanding achievements in the fields of: Innovation, Sustainable Development, International Trade and Promoting Opportunity (through social mobility). Ninety per cent of the 2020 winners were SMEs. The Awards can bring sustainable benefits to winners including increased staff morale, boosts to turnover and international trade, greater recognition and excellent marketing opportunities. Winners are also invited to a reception in Buckingham Palace. Almost all UK businesses can apply, [applications](#) are open until 9 September.

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

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@scambs.gov.uk.

5. Keeping your workplace safe

Re-opening your business safely during coronavirus

Employers that want to reopen their business have a legal responsibility to protect their employees and other people on site. Use this [guidance](#) to help you carry out a risk assessment and make sensible adjustments to the site and workforce.

Working Safely during coronavirus: Free webinars

The Government has launched two free webinar events which recap on how to make your workplace COVID-19 secure.

- **Close contact services webinar 28 July at 11am**
This [webinar](#) provides guidance for close contact services, such as hairdressers, barbers, beauticians, tattooists, sports and massage therapists, dress fitters, tailors and fashion designers.
- **Restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes and takeaways 28 July at 3pm**
This [webinar](#) provides guidance for restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes & takeaways.

Guidance for food businesses – signage

The Government has updated [guidance](#) for all workplaces involved in the manufacturing, processing, warehousing, packaging, retailing and service of food to include easy-to-translate advice for signage for working safely within the workplace.

Safer transport guidance for operators

The Government has issued a [guide](#) that will help transport organisations in England understand how to provide safer workplaces and services for themselves, their workers and passengers. It outlines measures to assess and address the risks of coronavirus.

Coronavirus: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home

The Government has issued [guidance](#) on the cleaning of settings outside the home which includes advice on cleaning measures you should take to restrict or limit the transmission of coronavirus.

6. Other Government guidance

New plans to ensure pubs, restaurants and cafes offer both smoking and non-smoking outdoor options

The Government has announced [new plans](#) to ensure that pubs, restaurants and cafes offer both smoking and non-smoking outdoor facilities. People using the facilities will soon have greater freedom to choose non-smoking outdoor areas.

Reduced VAT rate for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions

HMRC guidance for businesses to check if they can temporarily reduce the rate of VAT on supplies relating to hospitality, accommodation, or admission to certain attractions has been [updated](#) to include a new section on Retail Schemes.

Catering businesses using retail schemes may have to alter their accounting systems for the period 15 July 2020 to 12 January 2021.

Weddings and the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities

The [guidance](#) for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities has been updated to reflect that they can host small wedding receptions from 1 August.

Business events and meetings

The Government has [announced](#) that business events and meetings can go ahead from 1 October provided rates of infection remain at no higher than current levels.

Guidance on how to work safely in the [visitor economy](#) and in [hotels and other guest accommodation](#) has been updated to include business events and meetings.

Pavement licences

The temporary pavement licences process has been [updated](#) by the Government and introduces a streamlined consent route to allow businesses to obtain a licence to place temporary furniture, such as tables and chairs outside cafes, bars and restaurants quickly, and for no more than £100.

Eat Out to Help Scheme

Government [guidance](#) has been updated to include information that businesses can apply the discount to soft drinks and/or packaged snacks, as long as they are for immediate consumption on the premises.

HMRC is running [free webinars](#) daily from Monday 27th – Friday 31st July on the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. These provide an overview of the scheme, including how it works, eligible establishments, registering and making a claim and what happens after a claim has been made.

Alcohol licensing: guidance on the new temporary off-sales permissions

The Government has issued an [update](#) on the extension to allow licensed premises to sell alcohol to customers for consumption off the premises, which will allow businesses to trade and maintain social distancing.

Pilots announced for the return of spectators to elite sport events

The Government has [announced](#) that a small number of sporting events will be used to pilot the safe return of spectators through late July and early August – with a view to reopen competition venues for sports fans, with social distancing measures in place, from October 2020.

COVID-19: Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms

The Government has issued [guidance](#) on the safe use of playgrounds and outdoor gyms containing exercise fixtures and/or machines.

Construction working hours: guidance

The Government has updated [guidance](#) which provides further detail on the new route for seeking to extend construction site working hours introduced in the Business and Planning Act.

Extension to certain planning permissions

The Government has issued an [update](#) on extensions to certain planning permissions and listed building consents in England which have lapsed or are due to lapse during 2020. This is in recognition of the effect coronavirus has had on the planning system and the construction sector, and in particular, the delays it has caused to the start of new development. This extension will allow the planning permissions and listed building consents to go ahead without the need for new applications.

Changes to working time requirements for Enterprise Management Incentives

The Government has introduced [changes](#) to working time requirements for Enterprise Management Incentives (EMI). Individuals who are furloughed or who have their working hours reduced below the current statutory working time requirement for EMI as a result of coronavirus will retain the tax advantages of the scheme.

Countryside Stewardship capital agreements extension

The Government has updated [guidance](#) for farmers, landowners and rural businesses during the coronavirus outbreak. The Rural Payments Agency is offering an extension of one year to all customers with capital agreements that started after 1 April 2018 or in 2019 for:

- Hedgerows and Boundaries grant
- Woodland creation, Woodland tree health, Woodland management plan,
- PA1, PA2 and PA3
- Water capital grants
- Historic Buildings Restoration grants

Coronavirus: driving tests

The Government has [advice](#) on ensuring that vehicles are cleaned before being used to take a driving test.

When to wear a face covering

The Government has [updated](#) advice on when and where face masks must be worn. Face coverings must be worn immediately before entering any of the following settings, and must be kept on until you leave:

- public transport
- indoor transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals)
- shops and supermarkets (places which are open to the public and that wholly or mainly offer goods or services for retail sale or hire)
- indoor shopping centres
- banks, building societies, and post offices (including credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses)

There is also advice about settings where it is not compulsory to wear a face covering, people who are exempt from wearing masks, and how to maintain and safely dispose of face masks.

Correct disposal of face coverings and PPE

The Government has [updated](#) advice on the correct disposal of face coverings and PPE. People are being asked to make sure disposable face coverings and masks are put in their black wheelie bins at home, to help control the spread of Coronavirus. Read more on this from the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service by clicking the image below.

USED MASKS AND GLOVES?
DON'T RECYCLE

PUT IN YOUR GENERAL WASTE BIN

STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES