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FIRST FOR BUSINESS



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FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 20th edition of **Business Trafford's First for Business e-newsletter** brought to you by Trafford Council.

Trafford Council's Strategic Growth Team acts as a single point of contact for businesses throughout the borough. Whether you are seeking funding, searching for sites or premises, or require guidance on the support mechanisms available to your business, the team can help.

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Featured Article

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme opens today

The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme portal launched today with businesses able to claim up to £2,500 a month towards staff wages.

Employers can apply for direct cash grants through HMRC's new online portal - with the money expected to land in their bank accounts within six working days.

To access the online portal click [here](#).

For the Step by Step Guide for employers. click [here](#).



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Latest business information:

- **Future Fund to be launched;** UK businesses driving innovation and development will be helped through the coronavirus outbreak with a £1.25 billion government support package, the Chancellor announced today.

The comprehensive package includes a new £500 million loan scheme for high-growth firms, called the Future Fund, and £750 million of targeted support for small and medium sized businesses focusing on research and development.

Launching in May 2020, the Future Fund will provide government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors.

These convertible loans may be a suitable option for businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme.

The scheme will be delivered in partnership with the British Business Bank. For further information and eligibility criteria, click [here](#).

- **Finance webinars for the Self-Employed;**

With the extended government deadline for 2019/20 self-assessment fast approaching, if you are self-employed or work in the Gig economy, make sure that you are aware of the financial support available to you at this time. If you are 18+, a self-employed resident in Greater Manchester with an income of less than £27,000, you could be eligible for support through the **Enterprising You** programme. The team's dedicated Business Coaches and Finance Specialist are supporting self

employed residents at this time. Join one of the virtual drop in sessions taking place tomorrow. Click [here](#) to register.

- If you would like to speak to a member of Trafford Council's **Strategic Growth Team team** to discuss support currently available to businesses, please do so via email as outlined below or contact 0161 912 4176 and ask to be connected to a member of the team.
 - Allison Brierley - Allison.Brierley@trafford.gov.uk
 - Damien Cutting - Damien.Cutting@Trafford.gov.uk
 - Mark Bamford (Town Centre Enquiries) - Mark.Bamford@Trafford.gov.uk
 - Nidi Etim (Skills, Employment and Apprenticeships) - Nidi.etim@Trafford.gov.uk
 - Becci Page (Skills, Employment and Apprenticeships) - Becci.page@Trafford.gov.uk
- or
- Business@Trafford.gov.uk

Government support for businesses

A reminder that government is providing support to assist businesses at this time. Click [here](#) for details of the support mechanisms available.

Businesses eligible for government grants are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible. For details of how to apply, please click [here](#).



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