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FIRST FOR BUSINESS



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FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 27th 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

Government launches The Skills Toolkit

Today (28 April) the government launched The Skills Toolkit, which allows adults to access free, high quality online courses whilst at home.

Free courses are available through the new online platform hosted on the gov.uk website. The new platform gives people access to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses to help build up their skills, progress in work and boost their job prospects.

These are the skills which are highly valued by employers and sought after in a wide range of jobs. With more people expected to be working and studying remotely in the coming months, the platform offers a great opportunity to learn new skills to help to get ahead online and gain the knowledge we'll all need for the future. The platform also offers employees who have been furloughed an opportunity to keep up their skills development while they are at home.

Courses on offer cover a range of levels, from everyday maths and tools for using email and social media more effectively at work to more advanced training. Individuals will be able to access courses helping them to create great online content developed by the University of Leeds and the Institute of Coding, to understand the Fundamentals of Digital Marketing from Google Digital Garage and to learn how to code for data analysis from the Open University. All courses are online and flexible, so people can work through them at their own pace.

For more information click [here](#).



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Latest business information:

Reminder - Trafford Council encourages eligible companies to submit their grant applications; Trafford Council is calling upon eligible businesses across the borough to apply for their coronavirus grant support funding. Businesses who are yet to apply for the funding need to ensure they register and submit their bank details to the Council as soon as possible.

For further information on eligibility criteria and to submit an application click [here](#). If you are in any doubt regarding your eligibility, contact business@trafford.gov.uk.

Reminder - Bounce back loan scheme: A reminder that the government's Bounce Back Loan Scheme launches next Monday, 4th May.

The Bounce Back Loan scheme will help small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000.

The government will guarantee 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or

interest to pay for the first 12 months.

Loan terms will be up to 6 years. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months. The government will work with lenders to agree a low rate of interest for the remaining period of the loan.

For further information, click [here](#).

Reminder - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme now open; A reminder that the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which provides grants to organisations covering 80% of employee wages (up to a maximum of £2500 per month) for a period of four months from the 1st March 2020, is now accepting applications. For further information on the scheme click [here](#).

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
- Lorna Lloyd - Lorna.lloyd@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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