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FIRST FOR BUSINESS



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FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 8th 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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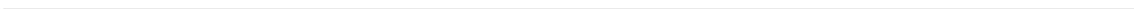
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Featured Article

Manufacturing Update

Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has written to the manufacturing sector to pay tribute to the sector's on going contribution to the UK economy at this time with many answering the call to support the manufacture of ventilators and components for medical equipment and transport as part of the fight against COVID-19. The letter also references support available from government including government backed and guaranteed loans, the Coronavirus job retention VAT deferral schemes. In addition changes to insolvency rules have recently been changed to assist businesses which need financial rescue or restructure as a consequence of COVID-19. To read the letter click [here](#). For information on support available to businesses click [here](#). For details of support available from The Insolvency Service click [here](#).

In addition, the Growth Company has produced a COVID-19 guide for manufacturers which provides information for manufacturers continuing to operate at this time. Information includes practical guidance on areas such as contractual considerations and prioritisation of manufacturing lines. It also include the latest government information and provides a suite of resources for manufacturers. For further information, click [here](#).



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Latest business information:

- **Free online Mental Health and Wellbeing support.**

All Greater Manchester residents can now access online therapy to help with stress, anxiety, low mood and depression.

Residents can now access the [Silver Cloud](#) digital mental health platform which provides support and help for those who may be feeling stressed and anxious during the [COVID-19 outbreak](#).

Silver Cloud offers a number of online programmes to help ease stress levels, improve sleep or build resilience. Each programme uses proven methods, including cognitive behavioural therapy, and all information entered is anonymous, confidential and secure.

The provision of Silver Cloud is part of a [Greater Manchester wide programme of new digital services and online support](#) launched this week. Mental health services are facing new challenges and coming under additional pressure due to the COVID-19 outbreak as they try to support those already accessing services and deal with new cases, whilst managing the impact on their staffing levels. This new package of support aims to help people to stay well, reducing the need for them to attend GP practices or hospitals. This new provision can be accessed by those with existing mental health issues as well as anyone who may be struggling due to social distancing and self-isolation restrictions. For

further information click [here](#).

- **Chancellor announces £750 funding for frontline charities.** This evening the Chancellor announced that charities across the UK will receive a £750 million package of support to ensure that they can continue their vital work during the coronavirus outbreak. Tens of thousands of charities providing vital services will benefit from direct cash grants to ensure they can meet increased demand as a result of the virus as well as continuing their day-to-day activities supporting those in need. For further information, please 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
 - 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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