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Winchester City Council

COVID-19 Information Extra April 2020

Business resilience is our priority
Cllr Anne Weir, Cabinet Member for Local Economy

Welcome to our second COVID-19 information extra e-newsletter. As the economic fallout from the crisis hits home, the impact on businesses across the Winchester District is all too clear. The city council is moving fast to roll out government support:

- Funding for the 'Small Business Grants', 'Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief' and 'Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants' is in place.
  - Since receiving the government funding at the beginning of April 1400 grants to businesses have been made totalling £18m of financial support to smaller businesses across the district.
  - Grants are being made everyday to eligible businesses, providing vital help with cash flow for some of our most vulnerable local enterprises.
  - If you are an eligible business and have not yet responded to a letter from Winchester City Council please do so as soon as possible. Many of these letters would have been sent to business addresses and should have been received by 2 April 2020. Please contact our business rates team at businessrates@winchester.gov.uk or telephone 01962 848 288.
  - The Government has responded to calls for more support for those enterprises that missed out on the first wave of response and ongoing adjustments are being made to provide wider cover. We set out how to access the latest information and guidance below.
- The Government has extended the current restrictions to household for a further three weeks to 7 May and have extend the furlough period within the Job Retention Scheme until the end of June. During this extended period you may wish to take advantage of:
  - A new helpline – 01962 814 915 – taking you through to the council's Economy team who are supporting businesses across the district get into the best possible position for positive restoration.
  - Online marketing opportunities from the Visit Winchester team to keep the profile of tourism related businesses high

We want to work with you through out these enormously challenging times - keep safe, stay well.

Cllr Anne Weir

Funding and financial support

This financial support provided directly by Winchester City Council

- Business rates holiday
- Cash grants for retail, hospitality and leisure
- Small business grant funding
- Grant fund FAQ
- Crowdfunder

Financial support for businesses provided directly from government and related agencies
Changes to support measures made since the last edition are outlined below:-

- Loan scheme
- Innovation support package
- Future fund
- Job retention scheme
- Self-employed income support
- More business support

The full range of business support measures offered by government are outlined on our dedicated Coronavirus (COVID-19) business pages here. Additional funding opportunities from a range of national organisations are outlined below:-

- Heritage emergency fund
- Rural response emergency grants

- Arts funding

Advice and training

Opportunities local to Winchester

- Business support - IncuHive
- Contact us
- Winchester BID
- Wellbeing directory
- Online training

Information - regional and county-wide

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- Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
- Federation of Small Businesses

National information

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- Support finder
- UK Protect
- Cyber security advice

What's happening in business

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- Supporting local businesses through change
- The Rehire Project
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Coronavirus (COVID-19) support for businesses

The information below summarises the support offered to businesses affected by the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We will continue to update this as more information around support, relief measures, grants and loans becomes available. Please refer to our business pages for the latest general information. For relief and grants being made available through Winchester City Council please refer to the relevant website pages here or contact 01962 848288 or email businessrates@winchester.gov.uk.
You can also call the council's economy team on 01962 814 915 for support.

Funding and financial support

Financial support provided directly by Winchester City Council

Business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020/21 tax year.
Click here for more information.

Cash grants for retail, hospitality and leisure

If your business is in the retail, hospitality or leisure sectors, you will receive a cash grant of up to £25,000 per property. Businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of under £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000. Businesses with a rateable value between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000. You do not need to do anything, Winchester City Council will write to you if you are eligible.
Click here for more information.

Small business grant funding

The government is providing additional funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBRR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief.

Click here for more information.

Click the button below to view the grant funding schemes – frequently asked questions (FAQ).

Grant funding FAQ

Crowdfunder

The 'Communities Positive Change Fund' supports district businesses - with under 50 employees and a turnover of less than £1million per annum - that provide services or activities which:

- deal with communities needs, such as isolation, low income, homelessness, mental health and physical inactivity
- are striving for positive change around environmental quality
- are increasing usage of digital applications, services and product
- are enhancing sustainability and green technologies
- have a creative and innovative approach to business growth

Should your business be eligible, the council will review your application to consider matching up to 50% of your project costs or £2,000 (whichever is less). Applicants will be considered for a £2,000 pledge or award providing that they have already achieved 25% of the fundraising target on Crowdfunder.

For further information visit Crowdfund Winchester

Financial support for businesses provided directly from government and related agencies

Changes to support measures made since the last edition are outlined below:-

Loan scheme

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) loan scheme for large businesses expanded.

A government-backed loan scheme for large businesses affected by COVID-19 has been expanded to cover all viable firms.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Large Business Interruption Loans Scheme (CLBILS) was launched on Monday 20 March and it was confirmed on Friday 17 April that all firms with a turnover of more than £45 million will now be able to apply for up to £25 million of finance, and up to £50 million for firms with a turnover of more than £250 million. In addition businesses with turnover of more than £500 million will now be eligible.

Click here for more information.

Innovation support package

The government has announced that a £1.25 billion support package for UK businesses driving innovation and development will be helped through the COVID-19 outbreak.

The targeted and tailored help is intended to protect firms in some of the most dynamic sectors of the UK economy – ranging from tech to life sciences – are protected through the crisis so they can continue to develop innovative new products and help power UK growth after the crisis has passed.

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.

Click here for more information.

Future Fund

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.

Click here for more information.

Job retention scheme - date change

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) job retention scheme eligibility date has been extended to March 19 and funding is available until end of June 2020

Under the scheme employers can claim a grant covering 80% of the wages for a furloughed employee, subject to a cap of £2,500 a month.

To qualify and to protect against fraudulent claims, individuals originally had to be employed on February 28 2020.

More information for employers is available here.

Self-employed Income support

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The scheme will provide a grant to self-employed individuals or partnerships, worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month.
Click here for more information.

To find out more information if you are self-employed people and sole traders if you cannot pay your tax bill on time, click here.

More business support

The full range of business support measures offered by government are outlined on our dedicated Coronavirus (COVID-19) business pages here.

Additional funding opportunities from a range of national organisations are outlined below:-

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Heritage emergency fund

Click here for more information.

Rural Response Emergency Grants

Click here for more information.

Arts funding

Click here to find out more information.

Advice and training

Opportunities local to Winchester

Business support

IncuHive provide a free virtual business support service on behalf of Winchester City Council, offering virtual one-to-one support with business advisors and online training opportunities. This support includes helping businesses with business plans to apply for business interruption loans.

Click here to find out more.

Contact us

For relief and grants being made available through Winchester City Council please refer to the relevant website pages here or contact 01962 848288 or email businessrates@winchester.gov.uk.

You can also call the council's Economy team on 01962 814 915 for support.

Winchester BID

For information from Winchester Business Improvement District and their business support and advice in relation to COVID-19 click here.

Wellbeing directory

Winchester churches have launched a wellbeing directory for local businesses. Churches Together's online directory helps local businesses find emotional and wellbeing support for their staff in times during these challenging times.

The Wellbeing Support page on the Churches Together website signposts business owners to local organisations who can offer support for staff facing a range of personal and relationship issues. These include addiction, relationship breakdown, mental health concerns, debt and bereavement.

The initiative is one of a series of new connections between the city's faith community and its business community. If any Winchester business would like to find out more, they can contact business@ctwinch.org.uk.

Online training courses

Lockdown could provide an opportunity for you to start that training course you've always wanted to do without having to leave the house.

Sparsholt online training courses offer an opportunity to obtain a Level 2 nationally recognised qualification in a variety of business, personal development and health and social care subjects. These may be useful in the workplace, in finding a job or for your own personal interest.

For more information click here.

Information - regional and county-wide

Enterprise M3 LEP

For the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub dedicated COVID-19 web advice page click here. For further advice or queries, you can also contact the Growth Hub advisors on 01483 478098.

Click here to read latest bulletin from EM3 and sign up.

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

For information from the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and their business support and advice in relation to COVID-19 click here.

Federation of Small Businesses

For information from Federation of Small Businesses and their business support and advice in relation to COVID-19 click here.

National information

Government updates

Sign up to receive regular government updates about COVID-19.

Sign up here

For more information about all the government initiatives to help businesses during this outbreak of COVID-19 click here.

Government guidance about managing your business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For information about rules that have been relaxed to help businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak click here.

Farmers, landowners and rural businesses please click here.

Food businesses can click here

Support finder

A new government 'support finder' tool will help businesses and self-employed people across the UK to quickly and easily determine what financial support is available to them at this difficult time.

Click here to find out more.

UK Protect

Click here for the latest information on counter terrorism.

COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING

Cyber security advice

Click here for the latest information.

National Cyber Security Centre
a part of GCHQ

What's happening in business

Business profile – Kirton Farm Nurseries

Many businesses throughout our district are adapting to the challenges faced by COVID-19 - including Kirton Farm Nurseries.

This Crawley based nursery specialises in sustainably grown herbaceous plants and herbs and has its own micro propagation production unit. Their plants for retailer sale are all grown in biodegradable coir pots in peat free compost and sold under the Hairy Pot Plant Company trademark. They are marketed using bespoke labels in returnable wooden trays. The small micro propagation unit produces over 500,000 young plants a year for other nursery growers.

The company have lost nearly all their orders as their customer base has closed and the plants they have grown for them needed a new home. Therefore some lucky Winchester District residents have recently found a small selection of potted plants from The Hairy Pot Plant Company' at Kirton Farm have mysteriously appeared on their doorstep. Local residents, especially those who are self isolating or shielding and unable to got out, have been deeply touched by this act of kindness from a local business.

They have set up the 'Plants for People' project which has so far distributed nearly three hundred thousand pounds worth of plants and they are still delivering via a network of local co-ordinators.

Click here to visit their website and find out more.

Supporting local businesses through change

Here is a list of local businesses offering delivery services: Winchester Local Food and Drink with Fresh Food Pod are also promoting businesses, and the council's own environmental health team is also offering guidance to businesses wishing to operate take away services.

The Rehire Project

The Rehire Project, is a new digital initiative to help as many companies as possible support workers being laid off or furloughed and allow them to re-hire rapidly when circumstances improve.

You can sign up here:
https://www.rehireproject.com/.

PPE donations

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service requires personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect their key workers who are delivering critical services on a daily basis. They are asking local businesses to donate any of the items that they may have using the link below.

COVIDdonations@hantsfire.gov.uk
visit hantsfire.gov.uk for more information.

We can donate

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