

# e-Business Brief



Wednesday, 18th March 2020

## News

### Coronavirus - Open letter from the Leader of East Lindsey District Council, Councillor Craig Leyland

In response to these difficult times our Leader of the Council, Councillor Craig Leyland has produced a [video](#) and open letter to all residents and businesses in East Lindsey. You can also read his open letter to our residents and businesses on the link below.

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### COVID-19 Business Update

As you will be aware, the Government announced a series of packages to support local businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on the 17th March. At a headline level, the support measures for local businesses are summarised online [here](#) and we are working hard at all levels within the organisation and with our partners to gather further details of how and when individual support measures will be available to local businesses.

As of 18/03/20, we have the following information relating specifically to grant and rates support:

- A new Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by the British Business Bank, will enable businesses to apply for a loan of up to £5 million, with the government covering up to 80% of any losses with no fees. Businesses can access the first 6 months of that finance interest free, as government will cover the first 6 months of interest payments.
- For businesses with fewer than 250 employees, the cost of providing 14 days of Statutory Sick Pay per employee will be refunded by the government in full. This will provide 2 million businesses with up to £2 billion to cover the costs of large-scale sick leave.
- A dedicated helpline has been set up to help businesses and self-employed individuals in financial distress and with outstanding tax liabilities receive support with their tax affairs. Through this, businesses may be able to agree a bespoke Time to Pay arrangement. If you are concerned about being able to pay your tax due to COVID-19, call HMRC's dedicated helpline on 0800 0159 559.
- There will be a £10,000 cash grant to our smallest businesses, delivered by local authorities. Small businesses that pay little or no business rates and are eligible for small business rate relief (SBBR) or rural rate relief will be contacted by their local authority - they do not need to apply.

The funding will be provided to local authorities in early April. Guidance for local authorities on the scheme will be provided shortly.

- Finally, the government is introducing a business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. A £25,000 grant will also be provided to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000. Any enquiries on eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs should be directed to the relevant local authority. Guidance for local authorities on the business rates holiday will be published by 20 March.

As soon as we learn more on how and when individual programmes or payments will be available to local businesses we will ensure this is actively communicated and promoted through all of our available media channels, including this newsletter, and local business networks. Please share the sign up for this newsletter to any business contacts you have: [www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/ebb](http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/ebb). Please also follow our Invest East Lindsey social media channels for more updates @[InvestEastLincs](https://www.instagram.com/InvestEastLincs) or follow [Invest East Lincolnshire](https://www.linkedin.com/company/invest-east-lincolnshire) on LinkedIn.

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### **Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub**

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub will aim to be responsive as possible as the economic impact of the outbreak develops. Their initial actions are set out below:

- The Growth Hub has dedicated [pages for business updates](#) for Coronavirus and there are weekly updates contained within their e-business bulletin which you can sign up to here: [www.businesslincolnshire.com/contact](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com/contact) and via social media [@BusinessLincs](https://www.instagram.com/BusinessLincs).
- Growth Hub Advisers will now operate via teleconferencing and skype for the foreseeable future, Growth Hub advisers will be briefed on the support available and will be able to provide advice on specific issues.
- The Growth Hub will help to raise awareness of support available to SMEs, including the measures announced at the Budget that will be delivered through local authorities and banks.
- The events and workshop programme has been postponed however they are working with contractors to explore moving workshop delivery online/webinars where feasible to ensure continuity of service.

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### **Useful Links**

[www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/Invest](http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/Invest) - Business support information for East Lindsey businesses

[www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com) - County-wide business information

[www.research-lincs.org.uk](http://www.research-lincs.org.uk) - Local intelligence and research tools in Lincolnshire

[www.gov.uk/browse/business](http://www.gov.uk/browse/business) - National business support information

[www.sourcelincolnshire.co.uk](http://www.sourcelincolnshire.co.uk) - Contract opportunities

[www.onlincolnshire.org](http://www.onlincolnshire.org) - Lincolnshire's superfast broadband

[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk) - Help and support to businesses and the self-employed

[www.greatbusiness.gov.uk](http://www.greatbusiness.gov.uk) - The Government's national business support hub

[www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) - Grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund

[www.businesslincolnshire.com/supplylincs](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com/supplylincs) - Sign up for the Business Lincolnshire Supplier Register

