

e-Business Brief



Wednesday, 25th March 2020

News

Coronavirus - a message from Councillor Grist, Portfolio Holder for Market Towns and Rural Economy

In this challenging time Councillor Adam Grist urges all businesses who are working on diversifying their business to meet the needs of our community to share details with us so we can support you by letting residents know through our communication channels. You can see his video on the Learn More button below.

We have also set up a dedicated coronavirus business page to keep you up-to-date with all the latest business information and details about support available. www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/CVBusiness.

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Business Grants Update

We've now had further guidance from Government on the business grant schemes they've made available, which can be found [here](#).

We will be writing to eligible businesses over the next week to collect the details we require to make payments and we're expecting grant payments to be made in early April.

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Business Support Information

For all the latest advice and support through this very challenging and changing climate, please visit: www.businesslincolnshire.com or email: businesslincolnshire@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

A new hotline has been launched, managed by Lincolnshire County Council, to support businesses during this difficult time. You can call the new local Covid-19 helpline on 01522 782189 to find out what support is available for you. Calls can be made between 9am and 5pm please select Option 3 for Business Support. You can also call the national helpline on 0300 456 3565.

Business Lincolnshire have also created a useful Covid-19 [FAQ](#) for businesses.

We are working closely with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) which has set up an Economic Intelligence Unit to work with local support organisations, business membership organisations, colleges and local authorities to facilitate sharing of information and co-ordination of activity on the economy and is already actively gathering intelligence on the business effects of the outbreak through Growth Hub advisers, local partners, direct intelligence, local authorities and business support organisations.

The GLLEP wants to hear from businesses about what is happening on the ground please email gllepbusinessintelligence@lincolnshire.gov.uk with updates, which they will collate and feedback to Government.

You can read their UK Government Response to Covid19 Support to Business e-shot [here](#). You can also read their support to the food sector e-shot [here](#). This outlines the top five issues which Covid-19 raises for the food industry. They are keen to gather as much feedback as possible on these points.

The [Government's Business Support website](#) details a full range of the business support measures which have been made available to UK businesses and employees. This page helps businesses find out how to access the support that has been made available, who is eligible, when the schemes open and how to apply.

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DWP update

For all latest guidance for employees, benefit claimants and businesses, please click [here](#).

Universal Credit.

For new claims where a person is unable to attend the Jobcentre as they are self-isolating, the Jobcentre will conduct the first mandatory interviews by telephone.

For those people who would normally attend for a work search review the mandatory need to attend the Jobcentre is relaxed and any necessary interviews will be conducted by telephone. It is important that customers remember that they can contact us via their journal, they should continue to record their work search activity, check the journal and "To Do's" for any messages/actions that require their attention.

Jobseekers Allowance.

Mandatory Attendance at the Jobcentre for work search reviews is temporary removed and payments will be issued automatically.

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Coronavirus Crisis Webinars

The Productivity Programme, delivered by the University of Lincoln, is offering weekly free-to-join webinars, led by Business Coach Simon Meadows who will be giving his advice for businesses currently navigating the coronavirus crisis.

The 90-minute session will be split into two parts, starting with a Q&A session followed by a group coaching session tailored to your questions.

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Coronavirus – an advisory webinar for employers

This webinar is provided by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service provides practical advice for employers to help manage the impact of coronavirus in the workplace.

It includes:

- steps that can help reduce the spread of the virus
- effective ways of communicating with employees
- self-isolating, time off, sickness certification and sick pay
- altering working hours, shift patterns and working arrangements
- remote working and the use of technology

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Urgent Call to Business : Public Health Supplies

Public Health are struggling for certain medical supplies. They urgently need the following :

- Gloves
- Aprons
- Surgical masks
- Surgical hand gels

They need as many as possible, and as quickly as possible. If you are able to help with supplying any of these, or know of a potential supply source, please can you get in touch with Karen Seal (GLLEP Senior Growth Officer) urgently by emailing Karen.Seal@lincolnshire.gov.uk or calling 01522 552812.

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Calling manufacturers!

Manufacturers if you can switch production to ventilators please call 0300 456 3565.

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Useful Links

www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/Invest - Business support information for East Lindsey businesses

www.businesslincolnshire.com - County-wide business information

www.research-lincs.org.uk - Local intelligence and research tools in Lincolnshire

www.gov.uk/browse/business - National business support information

www.sourcelincolnshire.co.uk - Contract opportunities

www.onlincolnshire.org - Lincolnshire's superfast broadband

www.hmrc.gov.uk - Help and support to businesses and the self-employed

www.greatbusiness.gov.uk - The Government's national business support hub

www.hlf.org.uk - Grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund

www.businesslincolnshire.com/supplylincs - Sign up for the Business Lincolnshire Supplier Register

