

# TRAFFORD

## FIRST FOR BUSINESS



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*(Trafford Council presents...)*

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# TRAFFORD

## FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 23rd 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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### Contents:

- [Featured Article](#)
- [Latest Business News & Information](#)

- [Events update](#)
- 

## **Featured Article**

# **New measures to protect UK high street from aggressive rent collection and closure.**

High street shops and other companies under strain will be protected from aggressive rent collection and asked to pay what they can during the coronavirus pandemic, the Business Secretary has set out today (23 April 2020).

The majority of landlords and tenants are working well together to reach agreements on debt obligations, but some landlords have been putting tenants under undue pressure by using aggressive debt recovery tactics.

To stop these unfair practices, the government will temporarily ban the use of statutory demands and winding up orders where a company cannot pay their bills due to coronavirus, to ensure they do not fall into deeper financial strain. The measures will be included in the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill, which the Business Secretary Alok Sharma set out earlier this month.

Government is also laying secondary legislation to provide tenants with more breathing space to pay rent by preventing landlords using Commercial Rent

This will further safeguard the high street and millions of jobs by helping to protect them from permanent closure during this time. However, while landlords are urged to give their tenants the breathing space needed, the government calls on tenants to pay rent where they can afford it or what they can in recognition of the strains felt by commercial landlords too.

For further information click [here](#).



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## **Latest business information:**

**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](mailto:business@trafford.gov.uk).

**Businesses in multi-occupied sites;** Working in co-operation with the Growth Company and Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Trafford Council is seeking to understand the number of small businesses which do not qualify for COVID-19 grants as a consequence of paying rents inclusive of business rates to their landlord.

If you are a small business in Trafford and occupy premises but do not pay business rates direct to the council or are not in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief, we would like to hear from you. Please email [business@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:business@trafford.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

If you are a Trafford based business seeking support, government has developed an online tool to assist businesses to identify support mechanisms available to them. To access the tool 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](mailto:Allison.Brierley@trafford.gov.uk)
- Damien Cutting - [Damien.Cutting@Trafford.gov.uk](mailto:Damien.Cutting@Trafford.gov.uk)
- Mark Bamford (Town Centre Enquiries) - [Mark.Bamford@Trafford.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Bamford@Trafford.gov.uk)
- Nidi Etim (Skills, Employment and Apprenticeships) - [Nidi.etim@Trafford.gov.uk](mailto:Nidi.etim@Trafford.gov.uk)
- Becci Page (Skills, Employment and Apprenticeships) -

[Becci.page@Trafford.gov.uk](mailto:Becci.page@Trafford.gov.uk)

- or [Business@Trafford.gov.uk](mailto: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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