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FIRST FOR BUSINESS



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FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 27th 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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Featured Article

100% Guaranteed Loans for SMEs

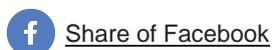
Small businesses will benefit from a new fast-track finance scheme providing loans with a 100% government-backed guarantee for lenders, the Chancellor announced today.

The new Bounce Back Loans scheme, which will provide loans of up to £50,000, would help bolster the existing package of support available to the smallest businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Businesses will be able to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000 and access the cash within days. Loans will be interest free for the first 12 months, and businesses can apply online through a short and simple form.

The scheme will launch for applications on Monday 4 May. Firms will be able to access these loans through a network of accredited lenders.

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.

12 Week Rapid Response Mentoring Programme for SMEs: To assist businesses navigate uncertainty at this time and assist in recovery, Be the Business have introduced a 12 week Rapid Response mentoring programme.

The aim is to help guide SMEs through the crisis, provide them with a sounding board for difficult decisions, and help business owners to develop the most suitable strategy for their business. This will be more of a peer-to-peer support programme as opposed to a long-term mentoring relationship.

About the Rapid Response Mentoring Programme. The programme is intended to be a short, sharp injection of support and will entail:

- 12 week support intervention to deal with acute business challenges
- Suggested weekly calls or online meetings of 1-2 hours
- Rapid matching process with existing registered and available mentors and SMEs

- Accelerated registration process for 'new' mentors and SMEs
- Participation in virtual groups/webinars covering support on relevant topics.

In order to help as many businesses as possible, the eligibility criteria for SMEs has been set at a minimum of £1m+ turnover and 6 full time employees for this cohort. If you are an SME business who would welcome some help and support during this time, meet the criteria and would like to join this Rapid Response mentoring programme, please contact - btbmentoring@growthco.uk

Furloughed workers to receive their full parental leave

entitlement; Furloughed workers planning to take paid parental or adoption leave will be entitled to pay based on their usual earnings rather than a furloughed pay rate, government has announced.

Entitlement to Statutory Maternity Pay, as well as the other forms of Parental or Adoption Pay, are currently calculated through someone's average earnings over an 8-week assessment period. For Maternity Allowance, entitlement and the rate payable is also determined by looking at average earnings over a 13 week period.

The statutory instrument laid in Parliament will ensure workers whose period of family-related pay begins on or after 25 April will be assessed on their usual, full pay. For further information, click [here](#).

Finance Webinars for the Self-Employed; The Enterprising You programme provides support to the self-employed or those working in the Gig economy. Join one of the team's Finance support for the self-employed webinars to ensure that you are fully up to date with support mechanisms available. To register for one of the webinars 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
- Damien Cutting - Damien.Cutting@Trafford.gov.uk
- Lorna Lloyd - Lorna.lloyd@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](#).