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FIRST FOR BUSINESS



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FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 9th 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

Retail Sector Update

Today, the Secretary State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma MP has written to the retail sector to acknowledge the difficulties being encountered by operators in the sector at this time. The letter outlines the government's thanks to those businesses which have closed in response to government direction. He also acknowledges the contribution of those workers in areas such as online distribution which are providing a vital lifeline for the isolated at this time. To read the letter in full, please click [here](#).

For retailers eligible for a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grant, Trafford Council has commenced payment of those grants for which applications have been submitted. Applications for the Small Business Grants are also being processed as quickly as possible.



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Latest business information:

- **HMRC support**

HMRC is providing assistance to businesses and self-employed people concerned about not being able to pay their tax due to coronavirus. For further information on how to contact HMRC online click [here](#). Alternatively call 0800 0159 559.

HMRC also provides webinar on subjects of interest to businesses, employees and the self-employed. For details of webinars click [here](#).

- **Stimulating Employer Demand for Apprenticeships;** The Growth Company is delivering the SEDA (Stimulating Employer Demand for Apprenticeships) project on behalf of GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority). The project offers free workforce development planning and impartial advice around apprenticeships including funding and grants for non-levy paying employers looking to recruit new employees or upskill existing staff via apprenticeships. A Levy Matchmaking Service has also been developed which enables levy paying organisations who are not able to utilise their apprenticeship levy, to transfer it to an SME including charities, to fund the full training costs for apprenticeship training within their organisation. For further information email Suzanne McNicholas - Suzanne.McNicholas@growthco.uk
- **Support for business from outside government;** Public bodies, organisations and charities have produced additional resources that may be useful to employers. Organisations including Be the Business, ACAS and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) are providing guidance and access to resources to help businesses during this period. For further information and to view the assistance available, click [here](#).
- **Federation of Small Businesses Support;** The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) provides support and guidance to businesses and the self-employed at this time. Support available includes access to

information, webinars and details of other support mechanisms. For further information 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
 - 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](#).



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