

Written 11 September 2020

C19 BUSINESS NEWS UPDATE

BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANTS - UPDATE

In July, the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government announced £20 million new government grants to help smaller and medium sized businesses recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thousands of smaller businesses in England could benefit from £20 million of government funding to help them recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The funding will be available from Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the level of funding per LEP can be seen here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906229/GH_Funding_Information_and_Allocations_FINAL_UPDATED_030820.pdf

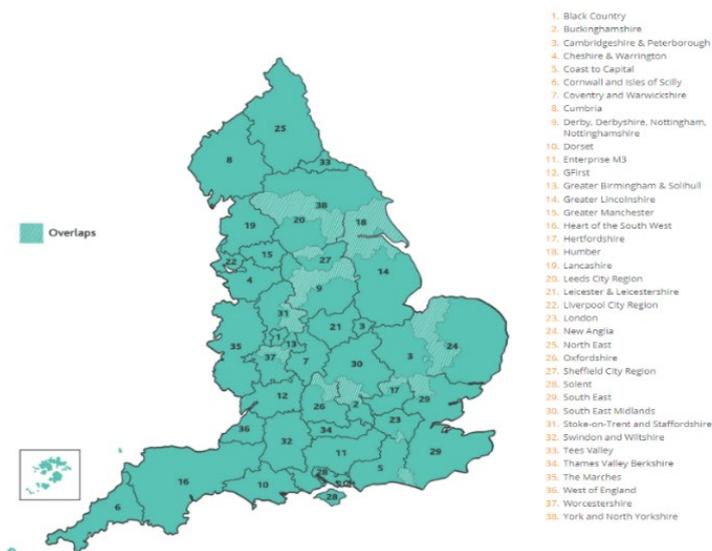


The screenshot shows the 'lepnetwork' website. The navigation menu includes 'About Us', 'About LEPs', 'Coronavirus Support', 'Local Growth Hub Contacts', 'News & Events', 'Activities', and 'Contact Us'. The main heading is 'Local Growth Hub Contacts'. Below the heading, there is a paragraph of text: 'If you are looking for business support or guidance, your local Growth Hub is there to help you. Use the list below to locate the Growth Hub nearest to you, there are 38 across England so there's one near you - just click on your chosen LEP from the list on the right, and you'll go straight to the Growth Hub's home page.' This is followed by a sub-heading: 'The network of 38 Growth Hubs are local public/private sector partnerships led by the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). They join up national and local business support so it is easy for businesses to find the help they need.' The final paragraph states: 'Both the www.gov.uk website and the Business Support Helpline also offer advice about starting up a business and can direct business to more support. Businesses can call 0800 998 1098 to speak to a business support advisor (9.00am - 6.00pm Monday to Friday).'

SME's will have access to grants of between £1,000 - £5,000 to help them access new technology and other equipment as well as professional, legal, financial or other advice to help them get back on track.

To apply and find out more, please locate and contact your local area Growth Hub. You can do this by following the link below and clicking on the LEP in your area - going direct to them.

Details of all Growth Hubs can be found here: <https://www.lepnetwork.net/local-growth-hub-contacts/>



VENUES REQUIRED BY LAW TO RECORD CONTACT DETAILS

The Governments new requirements for businesses mean that premises and venues across England like pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and cinemas must have a system in place by law to record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff in the latest move to break the latest move to monitor the transmission of coronavirus.

These businesses and organisations had been advised to collect and share data, with many effectively doing so, but following the recent move to ban social gatherings of more than 6 people, the data collection programme will now be formally mandated from 18 September.

Further guidance and, where necessary, regulations will be set out specifying the settings which will be included, but the scope will cover the hospitality industry, such as pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes, as well as close contact services and other tourism and leisure venues.

Additionally, venues could be fined if they fail to ensure their premises remain COVID-secure, such as failing to take specified steps to collect contact information or taking bookings for groups of more than 6. Further details will be set out shortly and we will keep you updated.

See: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/venues-required-by-law-to-record-contact-details?utm_source=0d18dd1e-f396-4187-9bab-b5e35da92a2e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

TESTING GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYERS

The Government has issued guidance for employers and third-party healthcare providers on the regulations and legal obligations of running testing programmes.

Some employers and third-party healthcare providers may want to introduce their own internal testing programmes outside of the NHS Test and Trace service. This guidance will help them ensure that their testing programmes are as reliable and effective as possible. It covers:

- legislation, regulations and best practice
- virus and antibody testing
- how to interpret test results
- next steps after a positive or negative test

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-guidance-for-employers/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-guidance-for-employers-and-third-party-healthcare-providers>

COMPANIES HOUSE RESUMES VOLUNTARY STRIKE OFF PROCESS

The process for companies that have applied to be struck off the register resumed 10 September following changes to temporary measures announced in April 2020.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Companies House paused all strike off activity to relieve the burden on businesses and to protect creditors and other interested parties who may have had difficulties in registering an objection.

The measures have been reviewed monthly and the latest change has been implemented after careful consideration and feedback from customers and stakeholders.

This means all companies that applied to be struck off before July 2020 will be struck off the register in a phased approach over the next 4 weeks, starting on 10 September 2020.

For companies that applied to be struck off from July 2020 onwards, the voluntary strike off process will continue as normal after this initial 4-week period.

See: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/companies-house-resumes-voluntary-strike-off-process?utm_source=74550ae1-58e8-40fb-bd92-dc445f102b89&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

THINKING OF REOPENING YOUR BUSINESS?

If you are now reopening your business should refer to the latest guidance from the Government.

There is risk assessment guidance to help businesses make sensible adjustments to the workplace on the webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>

Reopen your business safely during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Employers that want to reopen their business have a legal responsibility to protect their employees and other people on site.

Use this guidance to help you carry out a risk assessment and make sensible adjustments to the site and workforce.

! If you do not carry out a risk assessment, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or your local council can issue an enforcement notice.

Employees can use this guidance to check what their workplace needs to do to keep people safe.

This guidance is only for businesses that are allowed to reopen in England. Guidance from the [Scottish Government](#), [Welsh Government](#) and [Northern Ireland Assembly](#) is also available.

If you are in an area affected by coronavirus outbreak, check [Local restrictions: areas with an outbreak of coronavirus](#) guidance.

Start now >

Which of these apply to your business?

- Construction and other outdoor work
For example, construction, energy and utilities, farming and agriculture, forestry, waste management, and infrastructure
- Close contact services
For example, hairdressers, barbershops, tattoo parlours, spas, sports, massage therapy and tailors
- Factories, plants, warehouses
For example, manufacturing and chemical plants, food and other large processing plants, warehouses, port operations
- Hotels and other guest accommodation
- Labs and research facilities
For example, engineering centres, clean rooms, prototyping centres, wet labs, wind tunnels, computer labs, simulators, material development labs, specialist testing rooms
- Offices, contact centres, operation rooms
- Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services
- Retail businesses
- Sports and fitness facilities
- Working in other people's homes
For example, repair services, fitters, meter readers, plumbers, cleaners, cooks, surveyors, delivery drivers who come to the door
- Vehicles - working in or from a vehicle
For example, couriers, mobile workers, lorry drivers, on-site transit, work vehicles, field forces
- Any other type of workplace

Next step

The guidance on working safely varies between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

- England: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-returning-to-work/>
- Wales: <https://gov.wales/keep-wales-safe-work>
- Northern Ireland: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-workplace-safety-guidance-and-priority-sector-list-published>