



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

07 October 2020

LRFBIZ V38– ECONOMIC RECOVERY VERSION

Business and Economic Updates

Midlands Engine Economic Report

The Midlands Engine has published its latest Covid Impact Monitoring Report covering impacts on education, business and policy and is available to read [here](#).

ONS Economy and Society Research

The latest round of research by the ONS on the impact of Coronavirus has been published. Among the key findings are:

- 11% of the UK workforce is on furlough and 85% of businesses are currently trading
- 76% of businesses are using the CJRS
- 46% of businesses have less than 6 months of cash reserves
- 45% of businesses say their turnover has decreased
- High street footfall is about 70% of normal

Read the full report [here](#).

Connectivity Review

The Government has published the [terms of reference](#) for a review of connectivity within the UK. This independent review is tasked with understanding whether and how connectivity across the UK can support economic growth and quality of life, particularly as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the review is to consider:

- the quality and reliability of major connections across the UK
- likely current and future demand for transport links
- the environmental impact of policy options (including with regard to climate change)
- existing work completed by the government on cross-UK connectivity

This will be a good opportunity to highlight how improving connectivity will support the recovery of the UK tourism industry. The proposed timetable is to publish his interim report in January 2021 and final recommendations in summer 2021.

Redundancy Response group

Local partners are working together to ensure that individuals who might be affected by news of redundancy receive the tailored support and advice that they need. The Rapid Response Service for

employers is coordinated by the local Job Centre, and free support is available to help people to update their CVs, explore their options and access free training to develop new skills.

Greater Lincolnshire Online Jobs Fair under development

A platform is being developed to enable a Greater Lincolnshire wide free to use jobs or careers fair. Each business will be able to speak to the individual on the day via a zoom link, as well as email. Further details to follow shortly.

New guidance on £9 billion [Job Retention Bonus](#)

Further information has been published on how businesses can claim the government's Job Retention Bonus, with millions set to benefit from the £9 billion package.

- the Job Retention Bonus, worth up to £9 billion is set to support millions of employers who have kept on furloughed workers
- the bonus will work alongside newly announced Job Support Scheme and could be worth more than 60% of average wages of workers who have been furloughed - and are kept on until the start of February 2021
- businesses can claim for the Bonus from 15 February until the end of March

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant extension

The grant extension is for self-employed individuals who are currently eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and are actively continuing to trade but are facing reduced demand due to coronavirus. Find out more on who can claim and what the grant extension covers [here](#). HMRC will provide full details on how to claim in due course.

Deferral of VAT payments due to coronavirus

Businesses who [deferred VAT](#) due from 20 March to 30 June 2020 will now have the option to pay in smaller payments over a longer period. Instead of paying the full amount by the end of March 2021, businesses can make smaller payments up to the end of March 2022, interest free. They will need to opt-in to the scheme, and for those who do, this means that VAT liabilities due between 20 March and 30 June 2020 do not need to be paid in full until the end of March 2022. Those that can pay their deferred VAT can still do so by 31 March 2021. More information on the scheme will be available on GOV.UK in the coming months.

Digital Assets

The City of Lincoln Council produced a number of Covid-relevant digital messaging assets which were circulated last week. Please click [here](#) to access the toolkit which has been updated to include the LRF branding.

Jobcentre Plus (DWP)

Jobcentre Plus (DWP) is providing support and advice to employers and employees in redundancy situations through its Rapid Response Service. Support includes:

- helping people facing redundancy to write CVs and find jobs
- providing general information about benefits
- helping people to find the right training and learn new skills
- helping with costs like travel to work expenses

DWP delivers some support and training directly, and works with other local organisations such as National Careers Advice and ESF training schemes, to signpost in the most appropriate way.

Advice is available to all employers regardless of how many staff are at risk of redundancy:

Employers should email this dedicated address to find out what redundancy support is available at:	rrs.enquiries@dwp.gov.uk
Employers can look at general useful information at:	https://employerhelp.dwp.gov.uk/support-from-jcp

Visit the Greater Lincolnshire LEP website for more information on: -

- [Support for businesses making redundancies](#)
- [Employment schemes](#)

Employment, Skills and Education Updates

Working with schools

The Career and Enterprise Company has enabled Enterprise Coordinators (EC's) to continue working with schools, which is all about helping the schools to increase their employer encounters and experiences of workplaces (proven to reduce the likelihood that they will end up NEET - Not in Education or Employment and Training). Of 62 Schools and Colleges, 48 are signed up and receiving free advice and support.

There are 17 additional SEND schools that the Career and Enterprise Company would like us to consider working with. Testimonial:

"I would just like to say what a relief it was when the EC joined our network to help support us with our careers programme here. I had run the programme for several years to the best of my ability but was often concerned or frustrated that I did not have the advice or resources that I knew we needed. The EC joined us and that all changed. We were given resources and sign posted and supported and made to feel that we (careers) mattered. My confidence grew as I was able to send both students and parents information and support regarding careers that I have not had access to before"

For more information or to speak to a member of the team, visit [here](#).

Employment Initiatives

Apprenticeship Incentive

To find out more about the incentives to take on a new Apprentice, an employer who wants to find out more can speak to their current local Apprenticeship provider (e.g. College, training provider, University) or contact the national helpline who will explain more about the scheme.

National Apprenticeship Service - Telephone: 0800015 0600, Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm
<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/real-stories/employer#>

Traineeships - [Email](#) the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) or call 0800 015 0600 for advice and support on traineeships.

T Levels - Industry Placement Hotline - Call 08000 150 600 (choose option 4), or [email](#), or visit the website [here](#).

Kickstart - Employers interested in finding out more about Kickstart should contact DWP employer dedicated support [here](#). For further details visit the website [here](#). If you want to take on fewer than 30 placements, find an organisation to support you [here](#).

Summary information on the schemes available can be found in the table below:-

	Cost to employer	Financial incentive	Training Support	Duration	Age	Eligibility
Apprenticeships	Wages of at least £4.15/hour Plus, co-investment or levy funds	£1,500-£3,000 No Employer NI contributions	20% off-the-job training	At least 12 months	Any age	Must be a new hire Conditions on prior learning
Kickstart	No charge Wages are subsidised up to 25 hours a week	No Employer NI contributions	Unclear <i>Possibly 13 weeks employability training</i>	26 weeks	16-24 year olds	Receiving universal credit <i>Other conditions expected in the detail</i>
Traineeships	No charge <i>It is optional whether you pay the young person</i>	£1,000	Employability training and Maths and English where required	Minimum of 100 hours over a 6-week to 6-month programme	16-24 year olds	Cannot have higher than a Level 3 qualification <i>Other conditions expected in the detail</i>
Industry Placements as part of T Levels	No charge It is optional whether you pay the young person	£750 through some providers	Two-year occupational specific course equivalent to 3 A Levels	315 hours (roughly 45 days) over 2-years	16-19 year olds	Young person must be studying a T Level programme. <i>Other industry placements may be available for learners on L2 and L3 vocational courses.</i>

Major expansion of post-18 education and training to level up and prepare workers for post-COVID economy

The Government acts to boost productivity and help the country build back better from coronavirus with the following incentives to follow:-

- Lifetime Skills Guarantee to give adults the chance to take free college courses valued by employers
- New entitlement to flexible loans to allow courses to be taken in segments, boosting opportunities to retrain and enhancing the nation's technical skills
- PM acts to boost productivity and help the country build back better from coronavirus

Further details [here](#).

Fixed Key Messaging

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for continued support to your business
- View the Government Covid-secure guidance by sector [here](#)
- Click [here](#) if you can provide Covid-19 testing capacity.
- Feed business impacts into [Business Intelligence](#)

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum has created a Recovery Comms Cell made up of county and district councils, NHS, and LEP/ Business Lincolnshire leads to ensure consistency of key messaging. This is not

intended as a comprehensive list but to update on new and key messages relevant to economic recovery.
 Follow and tag @ [twitter LRF](#) [twitter LEP](#) [twitter Business Lincolnshire](#)

CONTACT THE TEAM – IF YOU NEED ANY HELP OR ASSISTANCE PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM						
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