



LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

03 March 2021

LRFBIZ V52 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

Coronavirus Headlines

Chancellor's Budget Statement - Key economic announcements & local impact

Covid19 Support

£20bn Extension to UK Support Measures

- Furlough is extended until September with a tapering of the scheme introduced. This means workers will be guaranteed 80% of their salary for a further three months after the potential lift on restrictions in June and is a positive measure which will in part mitigate the risks of an unemployment spike when support ends and will enable business to gradually ramp up their trade. *Currently around 13% of eligible employees (63,000 people) in Greater Lincolnshire are on furlough.*
- Increasing the scope of the Self Employment Income Support to include 600,000 newly self-employed who were originally not eligible for state financial help. *Almost 30,000 self-employed people in Greater Lincolnshire have claimed against the scheme to date.*
- A £5bn restart grants scheme designed to track against the restart roadmap: up to £6k grants for non-essential retail businesses to help reopen; up to £18k for hospitality businesses.
- Extension to the VAT cut to 5% for hospitality, accommodation and attractions across the UK until the end of September, followed by a 12.5% rate for a further six months until 31 March 2022.

Employment and Skills

- Extra measures to support long term unemployed through the Kickstart scheme for the under25s and Restart scheme for older workers. *This will help provide a boost to the 13,000 people in Greater Lincolnshire who have been out of, but seeking work for over 1 year.*
- Extension of the apprenticeship hiring incentive in England to September 2021 and an increase of payment to £3,000.
- Additional £126 million for 40,000 more traineeships in England, funding high quality work placements and training for 16-24 year olds in 2021/22 academic year.

Greater Lincolnshire LEP Specific Announcements

- **Town Deals:** all six of our Greater Lincolnshire bids are listed amongst the 45 Town Deals sharing investment of just over £1bn. No specific details available yet as to the specific allocation to each Town Deal bid. Skegness, Mablethorpe, Boston, Lincoln, Scunthorpe and Grimsby all expecting funding.
- **Upgraded ports infrastructure to attract investment in offshore wind:** The government will make an offer of support to the Able Marine Energy Park on Humberside following the conclusion of the

competition to upgrade ports infrastructure for the next generation of offshore wind. The £76m bid Able UK have submitted a bid for the BEIS Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme. *This is very positive news for Greater Lincolnshire and as an important element in the levelling up agenda. The funding announced today will provide financial support towards the development of a major portside hub on the Able Marine Energy Park and strengthen the UKs manufacturing capacity in the offshore wind sector. Locally the funding will enable up to 3,000 jobs and facilitate significant international inward investment in the area and will secure more jobs for local people, and significant opportunities for local businesses both large and small to be further involved in the supply chain for the expanding sector.*

- **Freeports:** The Humber Freeport bid has been successful. Subject to agreeing the governance arrangements and successfully completing business cases, the Freeport will begin operation from late 2021. The Government will legislate for powers to create tax sites in Freeports. *The Humber Freeport is uniquely placed to deliver on the Government's agenda to level up and decarbonise our economy. Over the coming months we will be focusing on delivery to create the new Freeport, which we expect to bring in fantastic investment to our part of the world and are hoped will lead to over 7,000 new jobs, with benefits felt far beyond the Humber.*

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund

- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** - Prospectus for the £220m UK Community Renewal Fund was released alongside Budget and supports communities to pilot new programmes and approaches as government moves away from EU Structural Funds. Government has already identified 100 priority places on an index of economic resilience to receive capacity funding.
- **Levelling Up Fund** - also launched alongside the Budget; £4.8bn fund which will invest in infrastructure such as town centre and high street regeneration, local transports projects and cultural and heritage assets. The prospectus will provide guidance on the process to submitting bids and how they will be assessed.

Read the Greater Lincolnshire LEP's news release on our response from our Chair to the Budget Statement [here](#), and Freeport success [here](#).

Detail on all the schemes and funds will be made available as more information is released.

LRF key messaging

As the government published its roadmap for the staggered easing of lockdown restrictions, it remains imperative that Lincolnshire residents continue to observe the guidelines on 'Hands, Face, Space'. This easing may only continue as planned if cases of coronavirus continue to fall throughout the UK. The LRF would like to thank those who have adhered to the rules and continue to do so - let's keep going to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Remember:

- If you have had your first COVID-19 vaccination, you still need to observe guidance on 'Hands, Face, Space'.
- If you have had a negative lateral flow test, you still need to observe guidance on 'Hands, Face, Space'.
- If you are waiting for your vaccination you do not need to contact your GP practice - the NHS will get in touch with you.
- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms do not go for a lateral flow test but instead self-isolate and book a test online, or by calling 119.
- Please remember the vaccination sites are not the same as a lateral flow testing site - you must book an appointment for a vaccination or you will be turned away if you do not have one.

LRF Covid-19 campaign - 1 year on

The LRF is launching a campaign to highlight the support provided across priority areas since March 2020. Look out for them on social media and share across your platforms.

Over **38,000** grants totalling over **£273m** have been paid to local businesses since the start of the pandemic.

Business Lincolnshire is our business support platform offering free advisor consultations, webinars and events, with the latest information, guidance and funding for the business community.

www.businesslincolnshire.com

Support and assistance during Covid-19

Volunteers have been involved with **1,785** tasks since October 2020 ranging from pillar 1 swabbing to the delivery of emergency food.

If you need support and require assistance for shopping, getting prescriptions, dog walking or a friendly chat, local volunteers are in the area to support your needs.

Call **01522 782189** or fill out a form online

Lincolnshire's Resilience Forum
The place to go for business growth

Support and assistance during Covid-19

Currently **372** active groups supporting the LRF, from as little as 3 individuals to 80+ volunteers.

If you need support and require assistance for shopping, getting prescriptions, dog walking or a friendly chat, local volunteers are in the area to support your needs.

Call **01522 782189** or fill out a form online

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Over 60s age group can now book their Covid-19 vaccination

People aged 60 and over are now able to arrange their appointment at one of Lincolnshire's Large Vaccination Centres (Boston's PRSA or the Lincolnshire Showground) by visiting www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or calling 119 free of charge anytime between 7am and 11pm, seven days a week.

If you prefer to wait until an appointment is available with your GP or closer to your home address at a local vaccination site then please wait to be contacted in due course, as Lincolnshire's GPs and their teams are currently focused on contacting people with underlying health conditions.

Business and Economic Updates

LEP Spotlight on Tourism & Hospitality E-Newsletter

Thanks to all our partners and contributors in creating this month's Greater Lincolnshire LEP e-newsletter which focusses on the Tourism & Hospitality industry. The newsletter can be accessed [here](#). The introductory blog by Charlotte Goy, CEO at Visit Lincoln and member of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Visitor Economy Board, is accompanied by a short promotional talking head video, which we encourage you to link and [share](#).

In this month's edition:

- Spotlight on Tourism & Hospitality (Charlotte Goy - Visit Lincoln CEO & member of LEP VE Board)
- Town Deals
- Digital Adoption Study
- Support programmes, funding schemes, announcements
- Team Lincolnshire Ambassadors
- Return of Lincoln IMP
- High Streets Fund
- Online Careers and Jobs Fair
- Geographical transition for businesses

Fund extended to help level-up every corner of the UK

It was announced on the 24th February that a multibillion-pound fund to level-up opportunities is being extended so that people in every region and nation of the UK can benefit.

£4.8 billion will be invested in local projects such as regeneration and transport, as the Chief Secretary made clear that the government will provide the same level of support to all communities, regions, and nations across the UK, in order to strengthen the country after the COVID-19 pandemic. For further information, click [here](#).

Education & Skills

Children of school age to receive 2 rapid Covid-19 tests per person per week

Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March. Click [here](#) for the official government announcement.

Guidance for heads of centre, heads of department and teachers

On Thursday 25th February, a guidance draft was published as part of a consultation on the rules for awarding GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021. The draft is for heads of centre, heads of department and teachers, and explores how to generate evidence that will be used to determine their students' grades this summer. The guidance can be accessed [here](#). Further information can be found [here](#).

Funding Announcements & Updates

Innovate UK business support and funding opportunities

Innovate UK have released a list of funding opportunities available for businesses, from farming and energy to cyber security and the automotive industry.

Such funding opportunities include:

- UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £7 million for feasibility studies or market research projects.
- Organisations can apply for a share of up to £40 million for grants to improve the energy efficiency of industrial processes, reduce energy bills, and cut carbon emissions.
- Further funding is available to support interdisciplinary research into interventions that will transform the UK food system.

To view the full list of funding announcements, click [here](#).

Lincolnshire County Council's new grant funds open!

LCC have announced the dates for application of their Covid-19 business recovery funds, as well as the extension of the Business Recovery Fund which will now open for phase 2 from 9am on March 4th until noon on March 6th, 2021. Further information can be found [here](#).

- **Business Recovery Fund** - for small businesses who have not been able to access any other government grants to date.
 - Extended for applications from 9am on March 4th until noon on March 6th 2021.
- **Digital Voucher Fund** - supporting businesses in improving digitisation
 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST window will be open between 8 March 2021 and 12 March 2021
- **Rural business grant** -for businesses and organisations with projects specifically in rural areas
 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST window will be open between 8 March 2021 and 17 March 2021.

- **Invest for the Future Grant** -to contribute towards business expansion
 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST window will be open between 15th March - 26th March
 - Application criteria published 8 March.
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EU Transition

Useful contacts

A list of government helplines for businesses has been published, organised by theme and key actions. To view this, click [here](#). Businesses in England should call 0800 998 1098.

For continuous information, support, advice, and all things business-related visit www.businesslincolnshire.com

Travelling to Europe for work?

A short explainer document has been produced to help those who travel to Europe for work understand the new rules that are in place for business travel. These rules apply if you are travelling for work in Europe regardless of whether you are attending a conference or providing services.

For more information on entry requirements, luggage, earnings, qualifications, and insurance pertaining to your travel, [view the full explainer document](#).

Information for Trade between UK/EU businesses

High Value Trader Support for New Border Processes

The Field Force Support Programme is offered by the Cabinet Office to support businesses that trade over £250,000 of goods with the EU each year. The support available ranges from invitations to specialist events, 1-to-1 query resolution, more access to business case studies and sector-specific guidance from policy experts. To be part of this programme you will need to answer some questions on your business and the goods you trade in. For more information and to fill in the contact form, click [here](#).

UPDATED: Importing from the UK and exporting to the UK

Guidance for EU businesses has been updated with new information on:

- Wood packaging material
- Importing animals
- Bringing food into the EU
- Transporting goods

For more information on **importing** to the UK click [here](#), and for more information on **exporting** to the UK, click [here](#).

UPDATED: Taxes and Tariffs

Guidance about taxes and tariffs for EU businesses trading with the UK has been updated with new Information about paying VAT or claiming VAT refunds. For more information, click [here](#).

UPDATED: Working in the UK

Guidance for EU citizens on working in the UK has been updated with new business activity information, now including COVID-19 entry restrictions. For more information, click [here](#).

Tools, Webinars & Events

February's Online Jobs and Careers Fair

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP's Online Jobs and Careers Fair will once again return on Thursday 25th March, after February's event hosted by the MP for Boston and Skegness Mr Matt Warman proved as popular as ever. In total, over 900 people visited the website throughout the February event, in addition to 72 exhibitors from all over Greater Lincolnshire, and the website homepage was viewed nearly 2,500 times in under 3 hours. Videos exhibited on the website's Main Stage were particularly popular, with total views of over 1,200.

Videos, resources, and contact information from previous fairs are available 24/7 via the jobs fair website [here](#). Employers and organisations can register for their free exhibition stand on the website [here](#).

Lincoln International Business School's Resilient Lincolnshire project

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is supporting the Resilient Lincolnshire project, to include a series of resilient leadership master classes running across March which see a large number of local organisations signing up; and who will be key to continue the development of support the Lincolnshire Business school can offer these leaders.

There has been an overwhelming response to the leadership masterclasses, which have been extended to include increased capacity so don't delay in registering!

- Wed 4th March 1-4pm, The 'Resilient Leadership' Masterclass
- Wed 11th March 1-4pm, The 'Emotional Leadership' Masterclasses
- Wed 18th March 1-4pm, The 'Responsible Leadership' Masterclass
- Wed 25th March 1-4pm, The 'Innovative Leadership via Technology' Masterclass

Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to register if you wish to be involved. Eventbrite link: <https://lncn.ac/mcregister>

Upcoming events

- **Developing your Managerial Mindset** - online programme from the Lincoln International Business School, 4th March until 18th November 2021. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **The Complete Marketing Plan** - interactive digital masterclass from the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub, 9th March 2021. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Developing Overseas Markets & Managing International Partners** - webinar from The Export Department, 16th March 2021. Click [here](#) for more information.

To discover more upcoming events, webinars, and online courses, click [here](#) to visit the Business Lincolnshire calendar.

All gov.uk webinars and videos for organisations that trade with the EU can be found [here](#).

Fixed key messaging

- **HANDS FACE SPACE**
- Approved vaccines are safe and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for continued support to your business.
- Call the Covid helpline on 01522 782189 and select option 2 for business queries.
- 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 response and recovery. Follow and tag on Twitter @ [LRF](#) @[GreaterLincsLEP](#) @[businesslincs](#)

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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Lincolnshire's Resilience Forum

