



## LRF Communications Briefing – Covid19

24 March 2021

### LRFBIZ V55 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY VERSION

#### Coronavirus Headlines

#### Free rapid COVID-19 tests for businesses whose staff cannot work from home

Rapid lateral flow tests which provide a result within 60 minutes, are being made available free of charge to businesses to keep staff safe.

**Businesses not yet registered should do so by 31 March** at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), even if they are not currently able to open or operate, to access twice-weekly free LFTs until the end of June.

**Those who miss this deadline you will not be able to register at a later date to access free LFT's so are urged to do so now.**

51,000 businesses have already registered.

Companies in England with over 50 employees can register on to order coronavirus tests for their workforces. Organisations with less than 50 staff, sole traders, the self-employed, or members of the public, should continue to visit the local authority [here](#) for further information.

#### Legal footing for national unlocking set out ahead of vote

The Government has set out new 'roadmap' regulations for the next phase of COVID-19 restriction easing taking place on 29 March, which will begin to pave the way to the easing of all restrictions from 21 June. This comes ahead of a Parliamentary vote on both the roadmap and Coronavirus Act on Thursday 25 March. Further information can be found [here](#).

#### Business and Economic Updates

##### Greater Lincolnshire LEP newsletter - Ports & Connectivity

Following the plentiful good news stories and recent developments in the sector, view this month's LEP e-newsletter shines a spotlight on [Ports & Connectivity](#) which collates these together with commentary [HERE](#). Please share with your networks and contacts to promote widely and share with your audiences. The introductory blog is attributed to the new LEP Director; Simon Bird, Director of ABP Ports (Humber) and is accompanied by a short promotional vlog so please link and share this too [HERE](#). Join us on [@GreaterLincsLEP](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to keep up to speed and be the first to see snapshot news and info and click [here](#) to register for direct updates.

##### Further £33 million COVID-19 funding announced for light rail and trams in the north and the Midlands

The Government has announced additional funding to support tram and light rail operators during the coronavirus pandemic, to ensure local transport is available to those who need to travel. This takes the total support for Nottingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Blackpool, Manchester and Birmingham light rail systems to nearly £200 million. Further info [here](#).

## Geographical transition for businesses

The support that businesses in North and North East Lincolnshire have previously received from the Humber Growth Hub will be moving to the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

The geographical overlap between the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the Humber LEP is being removed. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 North and North East Lincolnshire will be part of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP only and no longer part of the Humber LEP.

The advice and support for businesses will not change. In the majority of cases the existing business advisors will remain the same and we will advise where contacts do change. The current European Regional Development Fund programmes will continue to be delivered until the funding ends in June 2023.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub offers free and impartial advice to businesses across Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland. The front door to business support services is through the [www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com) website.

All business affected are invited to engage with the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub, the business support arm of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.

---

## Education, Employment & Skills

### Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps

Over half a million pounds has been awarded to expand successful work programmes to help more people gain in demand sector-specific skills.

Skills bootcamps offer free, flexible courses lasting up to 16 weeks covering areas including construction, digital and technical. The courses are open to adults aged 19 and over and provide a chance to learn sector-specific skills and offer a fast-track to an interview with a local employer at the end.

The funding boost - which comes from the £43m announced last November to establish pioneering new skills bootcamps - will focus on developing test models that can be scaled to other areas. Further information can be found [here](#).

---

## 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](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com)

### SME Brexit Support Fund

The SME Brexit Support Fund offers businesses up to £2,000 to help with training or professional advice for those with up to 500 employees and no more than £100 million annual turnover. [Find out more](#) information on eligibility for the fund and apply [online](#). Applications will close on **30 June 2021** or earlier if all funding is allocated before this date.

---

## Tools, Webinars & Events

### Webinars

The Department for Business Economy and the Industrial Strategy video content is available to help keep businesses moving: short on-demand videos covering the new rules on exports, imports, tariffs, data and hiring can be viewed [here](#).

### Amazon Launchpad Innovation Awards

The [Amazon Launchpad Innovation Awards](#) is a free competition designed to support emerging, innovative European SMEs by giving them chance to win a 'Startup of the Year' prize of €100,000 plus free access to Amazon Launchpad (offering a suite of products and services to help SMEs scale up) for 1 year.

Entries are open until March 28 2021 to European startups selling physical products to consumers. Full details in the [press release](#).

### Greater Lincolnshire LEP Online Jobs and Careers Fair

The next Online Jobs Fair will take place on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 10am-1pm** and will be hosted by Ruth Carver, Chief Executive of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, who will deliver the event's welcome talk. Visitors can attend the virtual fair for free by going to [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk](http://www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk)

Employers, Greater Lincolnshire training providers, and support services are welcome to register as exhibitors **free of charge** [here](#).

### Upcoming events

- **Employing EU Workers & EU Seasonal Staff** - webinar by the Building Business Resilience Programme. Monday 29 March, 6pm-7pm. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **How to Sell More on eBay using eBay SEO** - webinar by the Department for International Trade. Wednesday 31 March, 10am-11am. Click [here](#) for more info.
- **Industrial Decarbonisation Webinar (North & North East Lincolnshire)** - webinar by Business Lincolnshire & Team Lincolnshire. Thursday 1 April, 2pm-3.30pm. Click [here](#) for more info.

To discover more upcoming events, webinars, and online courses, click [here](#) to visit the Business Lincolnshire calendar. All [gov.uk](http://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**

<p><b>Shaun Gibbons</b> Chair South Holland DC <a href="mailto:shaun.gibbons@sholland.gov.uk">shaun.gibbons@sholland.gov.uk</a> 07870 157203</p>	<p><b>Tony Crowden</b> Deputy Chair NHS <a href="mailto:tony.crowden@optum.com">tony.crowden@optum.com</a> 07342 034035</p>	<p><b>Mark Stoneham</b> Lincolnshire County Council <a href="mailto:mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk">mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a> 07901 512504</p>	<p><b>Julie Heath</b> West Lindsey DC <a href="mailto:julie.heath@westlindsey.gov.uk">julie.heath@westlindsey.gov.uk</a> 07775 026257</p>	<p><b>Hannah Williams</b> North Kesteven DC <a href="mailto:hannah_williams@n-kesteven.gov.uk">hannah_williams@n-kesteven.gov.uk</a> 07500 102116</p>	<p><b>Emma Staff</b> Boston Borough Council/ East Lindsey DC <a href="mailto:emma.staff@boston.gov.uk">emma.staff@boston.gov.uk</a> 07929 862487</p>	<p><b>Kate Storey</b> Greater Lincolnshire LEP <a href="mailto:Kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk">Kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a> 07919 166416</p>
--	---	---	---	---	--	--

