

Lincolnshire's Resilience Forum



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

LRFBIZ V6 – BUSINESS RELEVANT VERSION

Lincolnshire Resilience Forum – Recovery Cell Comms Distribution

10th June 2020

As we move from Response to Recovery, 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 business. Follow and tag @ [twitter LRF](#) [twitter LEP](#) [twitter Business Lincolnshire](#)

Latest Key Messaging

REMINDER: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Deadline Today

The final date by which an employer can furlough an employee for the first time is **10 June 2020**, in order for the current three-week furlough period to be completed by 30 June 2020. Employers will have until 31 July to make any claims in respect of the period to 30 June. Further details can be found [here](#).

Discretionary Grant Fund

The DGF has now launched across all areas. Due to the limited funds available and high take up in most areas, closing dates have now been announced for most districts as follows:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Boston Borough Council | FUND OPEN – will close when funds available are allocated |
| • South Holland District Council | FUND OPEN until 19 th June |
| • Rutland Council | FUND OPEN until 19 th June |
| • City of Lincoln Council | Fund closing 10 th June (1 st call) / 2 nd call opening 15 th June |
| • North Lincolnshire Council | Fund closing 12 th June |
| • South Kesteven District Council | Fund closing 12 th June |
| • North East Lincolnshire Council | Fund closing 12 th June |
| • North Kesteven District Council | Fund closing 15 th June |
| • West Lindsey District Council | Fund closing 12 th June |
| • East Lindsey District Council | FUND CLOSED |

Most councils are also running business intelligence surveys. Please visit individual council websites for more information.

Industry-Relevant Updates and Announcements

1. Business Loans and Grant Data and Statistics

HM Treasury management information and statistics on the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS), Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs) and Future Fund Schemes is available [here](#) and published each Tuesday.

Similarly, [HMRC data](#) on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, and the VAT payments deferral scheme is published regularly (latest to end of Sunday 7 June) for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

[An article](#) that looks at those businesses who are common across different waves of the BICS survey and draws out how those businesses in common have evolved between the different waves from Wave 2, Wave 3, Wave 4 and Wave 5.

2. Webinars

Watch videos and register for the [free webinars](#) to learn more about the support available to help you deal with the economic impacts of coronavirus. The YouTube videos have been updated for how to make a claim through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and how to make a claim through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

3. High Street Retailers

High Street shops, stores and shopping centres can reopen from June 15th. If you are to re-open you must follow government [guidelines](#) to keep staff and customers as safe as possible. The government issued detailed COVID-19 secure guidelines for retailers and other sectors in May.

Remember businesses should display a downloadable [notice](#) to inform customers that they have followed the COVID secure Guidelines.

Please consider sharing the following tweet from the Cabinet Office, which showcases the safer working measures Boots has implemented: <https://bit.ly/BootsCaseStudy>

4. Jobs and Employment

Some districts are experiencing business disruption and, in the case of South Holland, 500 jobs are at risk after Bakkavor announced it is considering closing one of the salad factories at its Spalding site. Below are some business-related key messaging you may wish to consider using:-

- The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is working with the DWP and Business Lincolnshire to support businesses through the Covid-19 crisis. If you need to make redundancies, Jobcentre Plus can give you and your employees support and advice through its Rapid Response Service. Email rrs.enquiries@dwp.gov.uk
- The JobCentre Plus offers employers and employees redundancy support through the Rapid Response Service including; CV writing and searching for jobs; claiming benefits; finding new training and skills; and provision of travel costs and work expenses. Those affected can also visit www.jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk for more information.
- The Greater Lincolnshire LEP, South Holland District Council, business organisations, and the DWP will be working to ensure employees affected by the announcement made by Bakkavor that it is consulting on the future of 500 jobs in Spalding, have the support they need. Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic is having an impact on food businesses, in many cases this has resulted in positive high growth, and other local opportunities are available within the food supply chain.
- South Holland District has nearly 1,400 companies in agriculture and the food chain, supporting over 17,000 jobs employing more than 4 in 10 workers. This concentration of companies and workers means the area is nationally important for our national food supply chain industry, and is playing a key role in keeping Britain fed during Covid-19. New food businesses have already created hundreds of jobs in the area with more expected later in 2020.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic consumer food demand has changed quickly as the 28% of food normally consumed outside the home has switched to in home consumption. This has led to a big increase in supermarket food sales which over the last three months are up by nearly 20%, benefitting many local food businesses. The Greater Lincolnshire LEP remains confident that the

food chain will continue to grow locally and are focusing our efforts on supporting the sector as it changes to reflect changing consumer patterns and new market realities.

5. ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds)

A [series of documents](#) and updates regarding the 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme and the response to COVID-19 has been published and the ESF Q&A has been updated with amended answers to existing questions.

6. What forms can I send digitally to Companies House?

As an emergency response to coronavirus (COVID-19), a temporary online service has been developed to upload a number of completed forms and send them to Companies House digitally. Read the guidance to find out which documents you can upload using the new service [here](#).

7. Is the contact from HMRC genuine?

Find out how to recognise when contact from HMRC is genuine, and how to recognise phishing or bogus emails and text messages. Updated guidance [here](#).

8. Pubs and Restaurants

At yesterday's government daily briefing, the Business Secretary was very firm that there would not be an early reopening of hospitality businesses. He clearly stated that this would happen no earlier than 4 July. He referenced **safe working guidance for these business** would be coming ahead of this.

Fixed Key Messaging

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) or call 01522 782189 for continued support to your Greater Lincolnshire or Rutland business
- Guidance is available to support [retail businesses](#) to reopen and other industry sector guides to ensure COVID-secure workplaces can be found [here](#)
- The government wants help from businesses to increase COVID-19 testing capacity in the UK. Click [here](#) if you can help and to find out more.
- Visit [here](#) to submit your details if you can provide masks, gowns or hand sanitiser nationally or locally to [Lincolnshire Together](#)
- Feed business impacts into our [Business Intelligence](#) platform to help us continue to develop solutions with Government.

