

APPENDIX A: COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT

Nottinghamshire Business Support Summary

1. A further 250 businesses across Nottinghamshire have been supported to access the on-line webinar programme since the pandemic began. These webinars have covered a broad spectrum of subjects from finance and business funding, growth, preparing a response to the environment after a financial and trading crisis to managing change and business resilience in an uncertain world.

🔗 <https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/covid-19/#Webinar Programme>

2. The advisers are working with Nottinghamshire business seeking to expand by supporting the development of applications to the Business Investment Fund. The BIF offers grants and to date, 43 Nottinghamshire businesses are due to or have already benefited from its investment. The Council's advisers support businesses in drafting their applications and advise on the criteria.

🔗 <https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/grow/managing-finance/funding-for-your-business/access-to-local-finance/d2n2-business-investment-fund/>

3. The promotion of wider specialist support available is being maintained via a close relationship with partners, particularly with our local universities, finance providers and business intermediaries.
4. The Council has developed close working relationships with a range of business groups across the County, from the larger ones such as the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Institute of Directors (IoD) and the Nottinghamshire Manufacturing Network through to more local groups. Always reinforcing messages from the Growth Hub as to the support available and taking feedback on issues impacting on their members.
5. The adviser team has built working relationships with procurement, trading standards, children and young people (supporting childcare providers) and adults (supporting care providers) where local businesses may need help or support in accessing opportunities.
6. The Growth Hub is now in receipt of additional COVID-19 related grant funding to support key sectors including visitor economy businesses and the team worked to promote its availability to Nottinghamshire businesses and to date, nearly half of the resources has gone to eligible Nottinghamshire businesses.
7. In addition, through these same resources, a facilitated mentoring programme is also under development designed to help the mutual development of successful strategies for stability and for growth. The programme is developed with input from the Council and when ready, they will again be promoted to businesses across the County. Best practice indicates that mentoring can have a significant impact on recovery, growth and success, learning from each other's plans.

8. Wider, the Council has worked with the East Midlands Chamber on a series of EU Transition sessions and supported the development of a business conference with partners on 26 November, alerting businesses to the new requirements and the trading environment coming into operation from January next year.

 <https://www.emc-dnl.co.uk/enabling-international-trade/business-readiness-events-and-brexit-support/brexit-events2/?VariantID=4012>

9. Plans are also underway for a series of sessions on helping businesses access supply chain opportunities from HS2, part of wider work on procurement and supply chains.

10. The Council's active participation in the Growth Hub has allowed for its influence to be felt on strategy and direction of support to businesses, influenced by links with partners and most crucially with intelligence drawn from data, from businesses groups and businesses directly.

National business support guidance

Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services

On 9 November, the government updated guidance for people who work in or run restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes or takeaways (hospitality venues like restaurants, bars and pubs in England that had to close from 5 November but can still provide takeaway and delivery services. Sale of alcohol is permitted via pre-order for collection or delivery services only).

 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

Venues required to enforce rule of six, NHS QR code posters and contact logs

Hospitality venues in England were, from 18 September, legally required to enforce the rule of 6 or face a fine of up to £4,000. Regulations come into force to ensure that businesses comply with the 'rule of 6' and maintain social distancing between customers. Businesses failing to comply could be issued with fines of up to £4,000. Designated venues also had a legal requirement to maintain records of customer contact details and display an official NHS QR code poster.

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/venues-required-to-enforce-rule-of-6-nhs-qr-code-posters-and-contact-logs>
