

**25 March 2020**

## **COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INFORMATION**

Over the last few weeks, government has announced a raft of measures to help businesses through the COVID-19 emergency.

We are contacting you to help you to find information on these measures and also, specifically about grants that you may be eligible for following guidance we received from government on 23 March.

Measures announced by government so far include:

- 100% Business rate relief for all businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors for 2020/21 and 100% Business rate relief for all non-Local Authority child care providers for 2020/21. For these, new bills will be issued to businesses as soon as possible. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance>
- Grants of up to £25,000 for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with rateable values between £15,000 and £51,000. Grants of £10,000 for all businesses in receipt of Small Business rate relief or Rural Rate relief. These grants will not need to be paid back. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding>
- Local business support information is available from the Humber Growth Hub <https://www.humbergrowthhub.org/covid-19/>
- Full list of support from government and advice to businesses including information about the wage subsidy <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

Additionally, for larger businesses, the Government has introduced a guaranteed loan scheme for any small or medium sized business (with turnover of no more than £41M) that needs access to cash to help with immediate business costs. The scheme will offer loans of up to £5Million, with no interest due in the first 6 months. Support for larger firms will be available through the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility. To access these facilities, businesses should contact banks and lenders.

### **What you need to do now regarding grants**

A simple online form needs to be submitted in the first instance – available on [www.nelincs.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/coronavirus) - in the “Business grants and support” section.

As a Council, we are here to support our residents and businesses as much as we can. Once the required information has been provided and we have confirmed your business is eligible, we will process these grants as soon as practically possible (when we have received the funding from government).

Please bear with us as we process the grant information as there are several thousand businesses that are likely to be eligible. Rest assured, we are diverting resources to ensure this task is completed

as quickly as is possible and would ask that you please try and avoid contacting us for updates us so we can focus on getting the money to eligible businesses.

Any updates will be posted to [www.nelincs.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/coronavirus).

If you require additional general information about other council services, please visit [www.nelincs.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/coronavirus) in the first instance.

We do realise that these are unprecedented times. We are trying to keep as much business as usual going as we possibly can but our immediate priority has to be the response to the current situation.

If you need help with filling in the form, or for normal enquiries, please contact the Economy team on 01472 324615 or 01472 324367.