

Community Wealth Building Business Bulletin

Supporting Newham businesses through the coronavirus crisis

Newham businesses receive £31m in government grants so far

Since Issue 1 of this bulletin went out, we've been working hard to process your applications for government grant funding as quickly as possible. As we reported, the following grants are available:

- £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses (including pubs) with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £10,000 for all businesses in receipt of small business rates relief.

So far, we've processed 2,099 payments of these, awarding £31m so far.

Already we know this is making a real difference and we want every eligible business to benefit and expect the vast majority to apply.

You can check if your business is eligible by [using this online tool from gov.uk](#)

If you're still to apply, it's also important that you check your eligibility and also that you fill the form correctly.

Finally, watch out for scam emails. Our Business Rates Team is NOT sending out any confirmation emails to businesses once their application has been processed.

For more information about applying, [see here on our new website](#).

Positive feedback

Irfan Patel, the managing director of Masterclass Properties in Forest Gate, says: "I want to express my full gratitude towards your institution for the help provided during this unseen and hard situation we are living. At all times, Haider Patel's aim was to help, guide and assist me to find the best possible solution... and I cannot emphasise how grateful I am for the service I was provided and subsequent outcome. Our businesses are fortunate to have institutions like yours with this excellent support. We will most definitely pass through these tough times and come out of it better."

New government support

Since the last bulletin, the government has announced further support measures for businesses affected by COVID-19. Thousands more employees will be able to receive support by being furloughed through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) after the eligibility date was extended to 19 March 2020, so long as they had already received a salary payment by then.

Charities across the UK will receive a £750 million package of support to ensure they can continue their vital work during the coronavirus outbreak.

Also, the Chancellor announced he would be bolstering business interruption loans and launching a new scheme for larger companies.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) will now apply to all viable small businesses affected by COVID-19 not just those unable to secure regular commercial financing.

The government is also stopping lenders from requesting personal guarantees for loans under £250,000 and making operational changes to speed up lending approvals.

CLBILS will ensure that more firms are able to benefit from government-backed support. It will provide a government guarantee of 80% to enable banks to make loans of up to £25m to firms with an annual turnover of between £45m and £500m.

A £1.25bn support package has also been announced for start-ups, including a £500m fund designed for small businesses and the provision of £750m in grants and loans from Innovate UK. Businesses must be unlisted and registered in the UK to qualify and must have raised at least £250,000 in funding prior to the coronavirus lockdown.

A business rate holiday for all nurseries for the 2020/21 tax year has also been announced.

Financial support for businesses visit the government's [Business Support website](#).

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COVID-19 Business Impact Survey: we want to hear from you

We want to ensure that the voices of Newham businesses and the self-employed are heard, and that every business owner is able to access the support available. We also understand that there are some businesses who, for various reasons cannot apply for grants.

We've created a COVID-19 Business impact Survey to learn more about how the pandemic is impacting your business, what you need, and what you think the gaps in support are.

Click [here](#) to complete the short survey – it will help us help you.

Businesses helping in the community

The Council's #HelpNewham Local Hub is a network of schools and council buildings across each of our community neighbourhoods which are acting as distribution centres to deliver healthy food parcels and prescriptions. They also offer a telephone chat service for residents who we know need support; for example, those aged over 70 who live alone, those who receive support through adult social care and those with health conditions who have been identified by the NHS.

Our community wealth building strategy underlines the importance of businesses and the Council and other partners working together, underpinned by the principles of economic, social and environmental justice so that long-term prosperity, wellbeing and fairness for all residents in the borough is achieved.

Thank you!

Local businesses have been fantastic in providing plastic bags for the food parcels. Our thanks go to M&S Westfield and to Morrisons and Co-op, both in Canning Town.

We unexpectedly needed freezer space for 100 large boxes of frozen rice one morning. Gerald Mason, Senior Vice President of Tate & Lyle Sugars, put us in touch with Kevin Moreton of Olive Catering, who runs the in-house restaurant in Silvertown. In just over an hour he had made space and received delivery of all our boxes and will keep them until our residents need them. Kevin said: "We are delighted to do our small bit to help the #HelpNewham hubs by storing frozen rice in our on-site restaurant until our local Newham residents need it." Thank you, Kevin!



The frozen rice in safe keeping at Tate and Lyle Sugars in Silvertown

Lloyd Johnson, Chair of Newham Chamber of Commerce said: "The chamber and Newham Council are committed to working together to support all types of business throughout this very difficult time."

The Council: it's business as usual

Please be assured that it's business as usual when it comes to planning and regeneration, and housing delivery. Our teams are all operating as usual – just virtually. We have already undertaken several pre-application discussions via video conference and our first remotely convened Planning's Strategic Development Committee on 21 April. We are very much open for business and welcome development applications.

Feedback

Craig Atkins Some good news. An uncle of mine in the at-risk group and self-isolating, today received a lovely food parcel full of essentials. Thank you @NewhamLondon @juliannemarriot

@IFoodbanks 1000+ chocolate eggs collected on behalf of @newhamfoodbank1 for Newham vulnerable children this Easter. Grateful thanks to all who donated

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Volunteers needed!

We particularly want to support vulnerable residents in Newham. It's so encouraging that many residents and groups are coming forward and have recognised the importance of joining together to support Newham residents who are most in need.

We want to make sure that your support is directed to where it is most needed, whether that is delivering food parcels, providing information or sharing tasks like shopping or picking up medications.

There's a real need for both van drivers with D1 licenses and vans, which need to have similar space to the one pictured below so that volunteers travelling in the back can keep at safe distances from each other.



To sign up to volunteer, please email us directly at: volunteers@activenewham.org.uk or call **020 3770 4444**. Alternatively, visit www.activenewham.org.uk/volunteering1

Instant payments for local contractors

Usually, our invoice payment turnaround period for local businesses providing services to the Council is 14 days. To support businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak, we have changed our systems to ensure payments are now made immediately.

Employee matters

Employees are entitled to £94.25 per week Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) by their employers if they are too ill to work.

If employees are staying at home because of COVID-19 they can claim SSP, including if they are quarantined to care for people in the same household. If advised to stay at home, they can get an 'isolation note' by visiting [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk), rather than visiting a doctor.

Furloughed workers – those who are kept on the payroll despite the business being unable to operate or provide work to employees because of coronavirus (COVID-19) – could get paid 80% of their wages paid by the government, up to a monthly cap of £2,500.

Employees whose salaries are reduced as a result of the pandemic may also be [eligible for support through the welfare system](#), including Universal Credit.

For full details, including advice for self-employed residents, please visit the government's [COVID-19 guidance for employees' page](#).

We've waived waste collection and pitch rental payments until June

We're not charging for the collection of commercial waste between April and June. Your invoice will be adjusted to reflect this change and you will not receive this until May at the earliest. We know that many businesses we provide collections for are currently closed. If however, you do still require a service, rest assured that your service will continue and

we will continue to collect your business waste in line with our agreement. If you have any questions please call **020 3373 8666** or email us at commercial.waste@newham.gov.uk

In Issue 1 we announced that we had suspended all pitch rental payments for market traders across the borough for an initial period of four weeks. We're now pleased to announce that this period has been extended until June. Quarter 2, 3 and 4 charges will apply starting from July.

Useful links

Government business support: www.gov.uk

www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/coronavirus-and-your-money

For businesses and self-employed these will be useful: www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you There is also information on the above link in regards to paying the mortgage which I am sure will be of use.

The London Chamber of Commerce are holding webinars and one called "Helping Business Owners Navigate in the Current Climate": www.londonchamber.co.uk/events/covid-19-webinar-series/

www.businesssupport.gov.uk/self-employment-income-support-scheme/

www.businessdebtline.org/

www.businessdebtline.org/coronavirus

Temporary relief on overdrafts and credit cards
www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-proposes-temporary-financial-relief-customers-impacted-coronavirus