(Trafford Council presents...)

TRAFFORD

FIRST FOR BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of **Business Trafford's First for Business e-newsletter** brought to you by Trafford Council.

Trafford Council's Strategic Growth Team acts as a single point of contact for businesses throughout the borough. Whether you are seeking funding, searching for sites or premises, or require guidance on the support mechanisms available to your business, the team can help.

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Featured Article

Launch of Business Interruption Loan Scheme

COVID-19 remains the principal threat to local businesses at this time. To assist businesses affected, government today launched the Business Interruption Loan Scheme with businesses now invited to apply. Please see below for further details

If you would like to contact one of the team to discuss support currently available, please do so via email as outlined below or contact 0161 912 4176 and ask to be connected to a member of the team.

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Support for Businesses in Trafford:

- **Business Interruption Loan Scheme:** The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme was launched today. SMEs can avail of up to £5m of funding, repayable over 6 years, interest free for the first 12 months. Government will provide a guarantee of 80% against the loans. Further details of loan terms can be viewed here. Applicants are encouraged to apply direct to lenders. For further information and to view the lenders participating in the scheme click here.

- **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**: All UK businesses which furlough workers as a consequence of Covid-19 can apply for the scheme which will see government reimburse 80% of furloughed workers' wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. HMRC are working urgently to set up a system for reimbursement. For the latest information click here. Businesses with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC's Time To Pay service - contact the dedicated helpline - 0800 0159 559.

- **The Growth Company**: The Growth Company has published on its website a list of the **top ten priorities** for businesses to consider. These include keeping informed, signposting employees, measures for hygiene, managing self-isolation, international travel, assessing risks in the supply chain, insurance and pandemic planning. For further information click here.

- **The Growth Company** has also delivered a **series of webinars** for businesses across Greater Manchester. Subject areas have included Cash flow and Supply Chain challenges, how to work and operate virtually and legal and insurance implications. Recordings of the webinars are available on the GC website. To access previous webinars please click here.

- **Disclaimer** - The information contained in this bulletin is accurate as of March 23rd 2020.

Events update

- The **Trafford Park Business Network** meeting on the 27th of March has been cancelled.

- **Enterprise Unlocked:** UA92's Enterprise Unlocked event on the 31st of March has been cancelled.

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