

# Business Support Newsletter - Help For Your Business No 4

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## BUSINESS UPDATE

With support from Carlisle City Council

Dear All

I hope you are all keeping safe.

The links and information may look the same from newsletter 3, but we have amended the content and added more links.

In the purple section, we will update you on how our projects and our partner projects are helping to support businesses. Let us know how else we can help support your business, your ideas are always welcome.

We are looking into an exciting new exclusive project for our members, to help their business or charity. So you may be getting an email in the first instance from me shortly. Then I will rather ring you or organise a Zoom meeting.... so watch this space !!!!

We have had some great feedback about this newsletter really helping people through this difficult time, so if you have anything to add, just let me know.

If you need anymore information, please email me at [info@carlisleambassadors.co.uk](mailto:info@carlisleambassadors.co.uk) and make sure you follow all our Social Media feeds and are part of our online groups.

This is the link to newsletter 3, in case you missed it. <https://www.carlisleambassadors.co.uk/news>

Regards

Michelle

P.S Remember to scroll to the bottom of the email for the update links. I have now put the updates into three categories, Business, Charities/Organisations and General Information. Hopefully, this will make links easier for you to find.

### **WEEKLY ZOOM**

**Our weekly Zoom for members is still going well and it's every Friday at 10am**

**If you would like to join us email me and I can send you the link**

**[info@carlisleambassadors.co.uk](mailto:info@carlisleambassadors.co.uk)**

### **FREE MENTOR AND MENTEE PROGRAMME**

**We have the capacity to help more businesses and you don't have to be a member to be a mentor or mentee.**

**Do you need help with the following ...**

**Grant/Funding applications**

**Marketing or Sales**

**Contingency plans**

**Cash Flow**

**HR or difficult conversations**

**Bounce ideas of someone**  
**General Business advice**  
**General support and someone to listen**

**Then we have experienced businesses and individuals to help you**

**Here's the form to get help**

<https://www.carlisleambassadors.co.uk/projects/business-support-programme/mentee-application>

**If you can help by offering to be a mentor, here is the form**

<https://www.carlisleambassadors.co.uk/projects/business-support-programme/mentor-application>

**Open4Business**

**Open4Business is designed to support businesses locate relevant up to date funding opportunities**

**The portal is updated regularly with new local, regional and national funding announcements and can be easily searched by businesses on the basis of their industry, region and business size. The portal then provides information on how to apply for funding and contact funders directly. To search for grants, the business will first need to register on the Open4Business website**

<https://www.idoxopen4business.co.uk/carlislecity>

It's only taken me 5 years, but we have now got a LinkedIn Business page.

Il have been adding a lot of updates etc, if you miss them on our Facebook page. It would be great if you could give the page a follow. Here is the link

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/carlisleambassadors>

## **UPDATES**

These are links to grants and information to help your businesses. We can't answer questions regarding these links, your questions will have to be sent directly to the relevant organisation.

## **INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES**

### **Business Grants**

Lots of our members are based across the country, so here are links to local councils for the business grants

### **Carlisle City Council**

Updated data is now available and has data for 27 April. This shows that Carlisle City Council is 36th in England and has the highest grant allocation rate in Cumbria





- ❑ Loan terms will be **up to 6 years**.
  - ❑ The government will work with lenders to agree a **low rate of interest** for the remaining period of the loan.
  - ❑ The scheme will be delivered through a network of **accredited lenders**.
- Further guidance <https://bit.ly/BounceBackGuidance>

### **Coronavirus Job Retention scheme**

This scheme will provide a grant to all UK employers across all sectors (private, public, charitable and non-profit) to keep their workers on, rather than making them redundant during the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.carlisle.gov.uk/Residents/Grants-and-Funding/ArticleID/1145/Coronavirus-Job-Retention-Scheme-CJRS>

### **DfE Skills Toolkit**

DfE has launched the [Skills Toolkit](#) a new online platform giving people easy access to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses to help them build up their skills, progress in work and boost their job prospects.

Here is the link to The Skills Toolkit <https://bit.ly/SkillsToolkitNorth>

### **High Street Support**

<https://highstreettaskforce.org.uk/resources>

### **Business surveys:**

COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CumbriaCV19W1>

The Cumbria COVID-19 Business and Economic Response and Recovery Group (BERRG) has been established to assess the implications of the coronavirus pandemic on Cumbria's economy and to ensure that appropriate actions are put in place to support Cumbria's businesses now and in the months to come.

They estimate it should take no more than 10 - 15 minutes to complete. This round of the survey will remain open until Friday 15 May 2020.

### **COVID-19: Cleaning of Non-Healthcare Settings**

The government has issued revised guidance for businesses on how to safely clean areas in non-healthcare settings such as:

Workplaces, offices, waiting rooms, hotel rooms and student accommodation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

**Visit Britain** produce regular updates:

[https://www.visitbritain.org/covid-19-new-coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice-for-businesses?utm\\_source=VBVE\\_bulletin\\_15\\_04\\_2020&utm\\_medium=medium&utm\\_campaign=bulletin\\_15\\_04\\_2020&utm\\_content=COVID-19](https://www.visitbritain.org/covid-19-new-coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice-for-businesses?utm_source=VBVE_bulletin_15_04_2020&utm_medium=medium&utm_campaign=bulletin_15_04_2020&utm_content=COVID-19)

### **Cumbria Tourism**

<https://www.cumbriatourism.org/who-we-are/resource-hub/coronavirus-advice/>

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**Cumbria LEP**

<https://www.thecumbrialep.co.uk/news-detail/2020/covid-19-guidance-for-employees-employers-and-businesses/>

And follow @cumbrialep

**Government's new business support website**

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/>

**Federation of Small Business**

<https://www.fsb.org.uk/campaign-listing.html>

**Staying Safe online****Cumbria Trading Standards**

Cumbria Trading Standards is reminding residents to be aware of unsolicited emails, phone calls and text messages purporting to be from the government, health officials, service providers offering grants, refunds, loans etc. Do not respond, and only visit official websites for advice or support. People can contact Trading Standards if they need advice, the helpline number is 0808 223 1133.

**Cumbria Police**

<https://www.cumbria.police.uk/News/News-Articles/2020/March/Covid-19-Police-urge-vigilance-against-cyber-fraudsters.aspx>

### **Protecting businesses from COVID-19 scams - Trading Standards**

At a time when businesses are already facing challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the proliferation of related scams are adding further strain on businesses.

The increased risk for businesses has led National Trading Standards to encourage more businesses to join Businesses Against Scams. The initiative provides free tools for businesses to help upskill and train their #workforce, through free online training modules that will help staff identify and prevent potential scams. Businesses can take the training and sign up at <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/BAS>.

If a business believes they have been the victim of a scam they must contact their bank immediately and report any suspicious activity to Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Businesses Against Scams is a new element of the successful Friends Against Scams initiative, run by National Trading Standards to provide free online training to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/).

### **The latest news from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

#### **RDPE Growth Programme guidance**

Defra has updated [guidance](#) on the delivery of existing RDPE Growth Programme projects and the development of projects in the pipeline.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-structural-and-investment-funds-coronavirus-covid-19-response/european-agricultural-fund-for-rural->

[development-2014-to-2020-programme-rural-development-programme-for-england-growth-programme-questions-and-answer](#)

### **Other support for businesses**

The Business Support website includes a [list of businesses representative organisation and trade associations](#) from a wide range of sectors, many of which are providing sector specific guidance and Q&A alongside the information that is available on [gov.uk](#).

[https://www.visitbritain.org/covid-19-new-coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice-for-businesses?utm\\_source=VBVE\\_bulletin\\_15\\_04\\_2020&utm\\_medium=medium&utm\\_campaign=bulletin\\_15\\_04\\_2020&utm\\_content=COVID-19](https://www.visitbritain.org/covid-19-new-coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice-for-businesses?utm_source=VBVE_bulletin_15_04_2020&utm_medium=medium&utm_campaign=bulletin_15_04_2020&utm_content=COVID-19)

### **How business can help respond to coronavirus**

Business which can provide products and services, such as medical equipment, hotel rooms, transport and logistics, and expertise, can offer their assistance to government through [gov.uk](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-from-business>

## **INFORMATION FOR CHARITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **Cumbria ACT**

For communities/halls etc, you can sign up to their newsletter to keep up to date as well.

<http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/>

**The Charities Aid Foundation had some support for charities and social enterprises**

<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/covid-19>

**Carlisle City Council funding website**

The website provides up-to-date information on the government funding and is regularly updated when new schemes or guidance is provided. Please find a number of coronavirus related grants and funds [www.carlisle.gov.uk/funding](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk/funding)

**Help and advice for the third sector**

<https://cumbriacvs.org.uk/coronavirus/>

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Support Cumbria**

[www.supportcumbria.org.uk](http://www.supportcumbria.org.uk) is now live. This website provides a central point to help coordinate volunteering efforts to support Cumbria residents who may need help.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Emergency support helpline**

is now live with approximately 50 staff. The helpline is there to support those at 'high risk' and include people over 70 years old, pregnant women and those with underlying health conditions who should be protecting themselves by staying at home. If they have no alternative support, these people will now be able to call

the freephone number to request help with getting food, medicines, essential supplies and home deliveries. Distributions have started in Cumbria in response to requests to the helpline.

The Emergency telephone support line is 0800 783 1966.



**NEW EMERGENCY  
SUPPORT HELPLINE**

**0800 783 1966**  
COVID19support@  
cumbria.gov.uk

**Only for people at  
high risk of becoming  
seriously ill as a result of  
COVID-19 and who do not  
have support available  
from friends, family or  
neighbours.**

**Full details can be found  
online at [cumbria.gov.uk](https://cumbria.gov.uk)**  
Provided by Cumbria County Council and  
partners including District Councils, CVS, Cumbria  
Community Foundation, community and voluntary  
sector, and private sector.

**CUMBRIA  
Together  
We CAN** **SUPPORT EACH OTHER**  
#TogetherWeCan

### Support Directories for each area in Cumbria

'Support Directories' for each district, they're now listed on [cumbria.gov.uk](https://cumbria.gov.uk) on the Local Communities page at <https://cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/communities.asp> under 'Local Area Updates'.

### Online education resources

As part of its package of support to help schools deal with the challenges posed by coronavirus announced, the Department for Education has published a list of online educational resources for schools and parents to help children learn at home.

The resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

### **Coronavirus testing**

Coronavirus testing for essential workers or their household self-isolating with symptoms, is vital to help get them back to their important work as soon as it is safe to do so.

To that end, last week testing was expanded out to more frontline staff. That means testing is now available, in England and Scotland initially, for:

- essential workers with symptoms
- people who live with essential workers and have symptoms

The full list of eligible essential workers can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus-get-tested](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-get-tested)

**Links to all our groups and Social Media platforms.**

**If you follow all of them and join the groups, you won't miss out, on any useful information.**

**Twitter** @carlisleambass

**Instagram** @carlisleambass

<https://www.facebook.com/carlisleambassadors/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447688742248200/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/447688712248290/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CarlisleAmbassadors/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7483007>

Please note that from now on I won't be answering any questions or taking information via any of our Social Media channels including my personal Facebook page , as you can appreciate messages are coming through from everywhere.

To make it easier administration wise, I am now directing all questions and people sending links to either [info@carlisleambassadors.co.uk](mailto:info@carlisleambassadors.co.uk) or [info@michellemastersconsulting.co.uk](mailto:info@michellemastersconsulting.co.uk). This way it means I don't miss any messages.

If you need any help please email me or ring me on 07810224735

Stay safe

Regards Michelle Masters



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