

Folkestone and Hythe Business Community

Please see below some updates on key initiatives introduced by the government to support business. Further information and direct links to the government websites are provided at www.folkestone.works website.

- **Coronavirus business Bounce Back Loan scheme** – this loan scheme is available for SMEs who are able to borrow £2,000 - £50,000. Loan terms will be up to 6 years, 100% government guaranteed with no fees or interest payable for the first 12 months. The scheme will be launched on 4 May <https://folkestone.works/covid-19-bounce-back-loan/>
- **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: step by step guide for employers** - this explains the information that employers need to provide when registering their furloughed workers on the HMRC online portal <https://folkestone.works/2020/04/covdi-19-job-retention-scheme-step-by-step-guide/>
- **Coronavirus Small Business Grant & Retail Hospitality & Leisure Grant Scheme** – all businesses eligible for these grants need to provide account details for these payments using an electronic form on the council's corporate website which can be accessed through this link <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/business-grant-fund>
- **Independent Retail & Hospitality Business Support Programme** – this support programme covers all elements of a business review, including how to best use social media and/or other platforms to continue to trade during these difficult times. Any businesses in Folkestone & Hythe interested in accessing this support, *please email* economy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.
- **Local Telephone Help Line for Folkestone & Hythe businesses** - the council has part-funded a dedicated business support telephone helpline which is being run through the Kent & Medway Growth Hub by Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (KICC). The helpline number is 0333 3602300 and will be open 8:30am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday.
- **Folkestone & Hythe High Street Fund** – launched in Oct 2019, this grant scheme supports improvements and encourages new and innovative ideas to help our high streets adapt and thrive in the future. ***The fund is still open for applications but these will not be reviewed until September.*** The Economic Development team will not be able to offer support in developing project ideas during this time, but all approved projects will continue to be processed.