

Business newsletter (9 April 2021)

Welcome to the new Fareham Borough Council newsletter, which aims to keep businesses informed about what is happening locally during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This newsletter will provide details of:

- [Restart Grant scheme now available](#)
- [Shop Local Shop Safe campaign](#)
- [Training support for town centre businesses](#)
- [Shaping the Council's Business Support Strategy](#)
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Further information will be published to inform readers of useful information as and when it occurs.

Restart Grant scheme now available

The Council is delighted to announce that two new 'Restart' grant schemes have been launched to help businesses in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care and accommodation sectors.

These Restart grants will provide local businesses with a one-off sum to enable them to reopen safely as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The grants are being administered by the Council on behalf of the Government and there are different eligibility criteria:

- **Restart Grant – RSG-NER**

A one-off payment of up to £6,000 is available for business rate payers offering in-person services and whose business is non-essential retail.

- **Restart Grant – RSG-HPLC**

A one-off payment of up to £18,000 is available for business rate payers offering in-person services and whose business is in hospitality, leisure, accommodation, personal care, gym or sport.

The application process is quick and easy, and the amount paid is based on the rateable value of the property. For more information, or to make an application, please go to www.fareham.gov.uk/grants

If you are not sure if you are eligible, please call the grants helpline on 01329 824430 on weekdays from 8.45am to 5.15pm and a member of the Council team will be happy to help.

Shop Local Shop Safe campaign

The Council is launching a Shop Local Shop Safe campaign with banners and flags in our high streets to encourage people safely back to the town and district centres.

To support the re-opening of high streets, a new website will be available showcasing the shops and services within town and district centres across the Borough showing their opening times and any Covid-19 safety measures.

All businesses in town and district centres should have been contacted to have their information added to the website, but if you are not sure whether your information is included, please contact economicdevelopment@fareham.gov.uk.

The website will go live on 19 April and will be promoted widely by the Council.

Training support for town centre businesses

As part of its plans to safely reopen the high streets, the Council has commissioned Enterprise South to deliver a fully funded programme of support for businesses within the Borough.

The programme is completely free and available to any business within Fareham's town and district centres including Locks Heath, Titchfield, Stubbington, Warsash, Park Gate and Portchester.

The six-week programme of training webinars and one-to-one financial advice is available throughout April and May on a variety of topics to help businesses survive and thrive following the pandemic.


Places are limited so please register your interest by emailing businesssupport@enterprisesouth.co.uk or calling 0844 332 0131.

Shaping the Council's Business Support Strategy

Businesses in Fareham are being given a once in a decade opportunity to make their voice heard and influence the Council's future Economic Development Strategy through an online survey.

The Council has teamed up with the University of Portsmouth's Business School to survey Fareham-based business owners and residents living in the Borough who are thinking about starting their own business.

The survey will run until Monday 26 April 2021 and the findings from the survey will be analysed by the Business Resilience and Growth group at the University of Portsmouth's Business School and will be used to inform the Council's business strategy for the next ten years.

If you are already in business, please take the [existing business survey](#) .

If you are in the process of starting a business, please take the [new business survey](#).

Useful Information

- When planning to re-open your business, please refer to the relevant [Working Safely guidance](#) for your sector. Guidance in these documents may well have changed since the previous edition, so you may need to update your procedures and risk assessment accordingly.
- You will need to register your business (10 employees and over) to receive free lateral flow tests for employees. The period for registration ends on 12th April please do this as soon as possible. You can find details [here](#).
- Business and premises that have been closed for a long time may be at risk of legionella, for further guidance on what action to take before opening buildings up to staff please follow [this link](#).
- There is specific guidance for those re-opening food businesses. You can find out more [here](#).
- Go to the Fareham Borough Council Website for a [handy checklist](#) for those businesses looking to reopen from the 12 April onward.

Subscribe

To subscribe to future editions of our business newsletter directly to your inbox, please follow this link and fill in our short online [subscription form](#).

Useful Links

- You can find guidance about support for small businesses and the self-employed from the [Federation of Small Business](#)
- Find a wide range of business support and information with the [Hampshire Chamber of Commerce](#)
- There is a new 'Coronavirus' hub on the [Solent LEP](#) website detailing all of the available support for local businesses.
- There are also a number of national financial support schemes designed to help businesses during the pandemic. You can find out if your business is eligible using the [Business Support Finder Tool](#)