

Government Support Measures in response to COVID-19

- Small Business Grant/ Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant £11,340,000 to 882
- Discretionary Grant £500,000 to over 60 businesses
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief £21.5M
- Job Retention Scheme (furlough Scheme) Jul 12,400 28% Aug 2020 3,800 8% (45,400) (initially 9m ¼ of UK workforce)
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme 3,600 (5000) 72% claims Sep 2020
- Bounce Back Loan Scheme
- Business Interruption Loan Scheme – Herts 2% take up
- Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme
- Time to Pay Scheme
- VAT deferral Scheme
- Deferral of Self-Assessment payment
- Job Retention Bonus £1,000 top on Job Retention to support jobs
- **A Kickstart Scheme** to support 6-month work placements for 16-24. £2.1bn intermediaries to support businesses unable to provide 30 placements – Wenta and Herts/Beds Chamber & Growth Hub supporting
- VAT reduction of 5% for hospitality, accommodation and attractions from 15 July 2020 to 12 January 2021 -£4.1bn.
- **Eat Out to Help Out scheme** – a number of Stevenage businesses in Old/New Town supported and publicised through business update and social media
- **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** - grants to public sector bodies, including schools and hospitals, to fund both energy efficiency and low carbon heat upgrades.
- **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund** - to help social landlords improve the least energy-efficient social rented homes, £1.1bn.
- **Green Homes Grant:** £2bn Green Homes Grant, providing at least £2 for every £1 homeowners and landlords spend to make their homes more energy efficient, up to £5,000 per household. For those on the lowest incomes, the scheme will fully fund energy efficiency measures of up to £10,000 per household. £2bn,
- **Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT):** temporarily increase the Nil Rate Band of Residential SDLT, in England and Northern Ireland, from £125,000 to £500,000 from 8 July 2020 until 31 March 2021, £3.8bn
- **Apprenticeship payments for employers who hire new apprentices:** £2,000 for each new apprentice under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice aged 25 and over, from 1st August 2020 to 31st January 2021;
- **Traineeships for young people:** £111m this year for traineeships in England for 16-24 year olds;

- **JETS (Job Entry Targeted Support)**, a new employment programme to support job seekers. £238 million investment dedicated to supporting those left jobless due to Covid-19.

Targeting those out of work for three months, DWP ramp up support for claimants to ensure those put forward for the scheme have access to tailored, flexible support to quickly get back into employment

- **Flexibility to pay back loans** - Pay as You Grow flexible repayment system introduced to provide flexibility for firms repaying the Bounce Back Loan. Extending length of loan from 6 years to 10, cut monthly repayments by nearly half. Interest-only periods of up to six months and payment holidays. Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme lenders also given ability extend length of loans from 6 years to 10 years, if it will help businesses to repay the loan
- Government support to stop business evictions extended
- Commercial tenants will be protected from the risk of eviction until the end of 2020 in order to support businesses and protect jobs.
- **New package to support and enforce self-isolation**

The Government announced a new package to support and enforce self-isolation. From 28 September, people will be required by law to self-isolate when instructed to by NHS Test and Trace. Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result will be supported by a payment of £500.

- [Customs Grant Scheme](#)

£50m is now available from HMRC to support organisations with costs associated with increasing their capacity and enhancing their ability to complete customs declarations, ahead of the new rules from January 2021.

- **Homes England and Invest & Fund finance support to small builders**

Homes England and Invest & Fund, to increase the amount of finance available to SME developers to help them grow and deliver more homes at pace. Collaboration create a £25m revolving fund to allow Invest & Fund to support small builders with construction loans of between £400k and £2.5m, funding schemes of two homes and upwards, at up to 80% Loan-To-Cost

- **Job Support Scheme** - operate from 1 November - For every hour not worked, the employee will be paid up to two-thirds of their usual salary.

The government will provide up to 61.67% of wages for hours not worked, up to £1541.75 per month. The cap is set above median earnings for employees in August at a reference salary of £3,125 per month.

- ***Self Employed Income Support Scheme***

Government will provide two taxable SEISS grants to support those experiencing reduced demand due to COVID-19 but are continuing to trade, or temporarily cannot trade. Available to anyone who previously eligible for the SEISS grant one and grant two, and meets the eligibility criteria. Grants will be paid in two lump sum instalments each covering 3 months and capped at £3,750.

- **Local Restrictions Support Grant (Tier 2)** Funding to allow local authorities to support businesses in Tier 2 areas which are not legally closed, but which are severely impacted by the restrictions on socialising. Further info to follow