As the government's guidance to business on how they can operate under the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown develops, and the business support offer is changed to meet the developing situation, keeping up with the latest advice and guidance continues to be highly important.  
  
You can still check which of the [COVID-19 support services you are eligible for here](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=013467ed47&e=7ab728a9f9). By answering a few questions about your business you can be signposted to more detail on how to access the help you are entitled to.   
  
The latest information on support such as the Job Retention Scheme, Self Employment Income Support Scheme and guidance on re-opening safely is being updated as it is announced at [https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=01d2f0a0cc&e=7ab728a9f9)  
  
The [Business Growth Hu](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=8cecc5c975&e=7ab728a9f9)[b](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=c14c494d7c&e=7ab728a9f9) continues to provide up to date information on the government's support schemes, as wells as advice, guidance and tools such as a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Template and help with Access 2 Finance. If you want to access this support you can call them on 0161 237 4128.  
  
Tameside Council is also continuing to keep up to date links to information on the national support offer, as well as local information and contact routes through the [support for business](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=41a453ce85&e=7ab728a9f9) section of our website.

**Tameside Discretionary Grant Fund**

On Thursday 4 June, Tameside Council launched the [Discretionary Grants Fund to help Tameside small businesses](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=146829f92e&e=7ab728a9f9) with high fixed property costs and loss of income due to COVID-19. It is important that any business considering an application reviews the [Tameside guidance prior to applying](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=956a160f21&e=7ab728a9f9).  
  
**With a deadline for applications 5pm on the 18 June, and the need to provide robust evidence to support any application, we would encourage all eligible businesses to get their application is ASAP to help ensure there are no delays in processing and awards.**  
  
**If the fund is oversubscribed with the applications received, the council reserves the right to amend the grant levels to a pro-rata basis, based on the applications received and approved, as a way of dealing with this situation, should it arise. The council reserves the right to vary the terms of the scheme at any time, and without notice, should it be necessary to do so.**  
  
Round 1 is currently open to businesses in the following categories:

* Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces. Examples could include mills, units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators which do not have their own business rates assessment; Exclusions include businesses operating from domestic settings (including Airbnb operators) or those that do not have fixed, property related costs.
* Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment;
* Bed & Breakfasts which pay council tax instead of business rates; and
* Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

To be eligible (please review Tameside guidance in detail) to apply for a grant under this scheme, a small business must:

* Be a trading business in Tameside
* Have been trading on 11th March 2020
* Be small, with fewer than 50 employees
* Have a rateable value below £51,000
* Have relatively high ongoing fixed property-related costs (over £1,000 per annum) in Tameside, and
* They must also be able to demonstrate that they have had a significant drop of income due to coronavirus restriction measures (10% fall in income in the period since 11 March 2020).

The timeline for round 1 of the scheme is:

* **Applications opened – Thursday, 4 June, 4pm.**
* **Application window closes – Thursday, 18 June, 5pm.**
* Award of grants – from Monday 22 June onwards.

Applications for the grant can be [made online here](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=fd223f8095&e=7ab728a9f9) or if you are unable to apply online please email [tamesidegrant@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:tamesidegrant@tameside.gov.uk?subject=Tameside%20Discretionary%20Grant%20Fund) to request a printed copy to be emailed or posted to you.

**Support with security – Action Counters Terrorism**

Live-time information from Counter Terrorism Policing, plus all the very latest protective security advice, is now available to the business community 24/7 via the [Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) App](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=b5f20cb63a&e=7ab728a9f9)  
  
More than a thousand specialists from across the UK have helped trial this easy-to-navigate product, including leading organisations from the security, sporting and retail sectors.  
   
Powered by Urim, the ACT app is free for companies, and has been developed in partnership with industry specialists from Marks and Spencer and Highfield eLearning.  
   
Available from Google Play or App Store the app will provide access to:

* Practical advice and guidance to help you protect businesses, plus information on how to respond in the event of an attack
* CT Policing’s suite of ACT training products, including the online e-learning package
* Suite of NaCTSO guidance videos
* Latest reference documents and publications
* ACT online reporting form and confidential hotline
* Emergency response and post-incident guidance
* Live-time news updates from UK Protect

Senior National Coordinator for Protective Security, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi, says: “We have made crucial information for our business partners even easier and quicker to access, and the added bonus is that it is free.  
   
“The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and we should encourage everyone working in crowded places – particularly those with a security role - to sign up for this new tool.   
   
“We would like everyone to feel that they have a role to play in national security and making the UK a hostile place for terrorists to operate, and this app helps them do that.”

**How to get the ACT App**

Go to [Google Play](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=ed5c060781&e=7ab728a9f9) or [App Store](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=c404c8bd82&e=7ab728a9f9) - search for and download the Urim app.  
   
Then email [ct@highfieldelearning.com](mailto:ct@highfieldelearning.com)  giving their company name and requesting a username and password specific to their organisation. This will ensure only qualifying business users have access to our protective security advice.