With the environment for businesses now beginning to change, as the Government starts to put into action a stepped approach to take the country out of lockdown, up to date business support and guidance is continuing to be released on a regular basis. We are committed to keeping you up to date with the latest news to help and support for your business.

In today's e-shot we cover:
The Government's safe workplace guidance.
Support available for coming out of lockdown.
The extension to the Job Retention Scheme
The launch of the claims platform for the Self-employment support scheme.
SBRR and Retail Leisure and Hospitality Grants.
Linking people to employment.

The [Business Growth Hu](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=31c909b4c1&e=7ab728a9f9)[b](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=69c1d5c7de&e=7ab728a9f9) continues to provide up-to-date information on the Government's support schemes.

Tameside Council is also continuing to keep up-to-date links to information on the national support available. As well as local information and specific contact details available in the [support for business](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=b3fbaac555&e=7ab728a9f9) section of our website. Our Business Rates team continue to work to pay out grants.

**Workplace guidance**

On Sunday 10th May, Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed the nation to lay out the Government's approach to the next phase of the CoronaVirus lockdown. The text of his announcement can be [read here](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=5289cab1d2&e=7ab728a9f9)

The Prime Minister laid out the Government's initial approach to the lifting of lock-down and for how those businesses who have been told to close can re-open and how employees across the economy can return to the workplace. This strategy has new been published as "our plan to rebuild" which can be [read here.](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=f4e9837577&e=7ab728a9f9)

To further support this plan, and to allow businesses to plan how their staff can return to work, [8 sets of guidance for social distancing in specific workplaces have been published online](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=c6e9948076&e=7ab728a9f9).

**Support for coming out of lockdown**

The Government's plan for coming out of lockdown is a road-map for the next few months, laying out which businesses will be able to re-open and when. The workplace guidance above provides practical information on what will be required of businesses which re-open to ensure they are COVID-19 secure. We have set out ways below that Tameside Council can help you at this time.

**COVID 19 risk assessments.**

The Government's safe workplace guidance is clear on the need for  businesses to carry out COVID-19 specific risk assessments to protect their staff, clients and customers.

The Health and Safety Executive has published various guides and support on p[reparing risk assessments](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=9355463487&e=7ab728a9f9) and [working safely during the outbreak](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=3dcbc9e87c&e=7ab728a9f9) to help with this.

The Growth Company has also produced a template [COVID-19 back to work risk assessment and guidance document](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=939e65ae8a&e=7ab728a9f9), through their Centre for Assessment.

The vast majority of businesses want to make sure that they are operating safely and looking after their staff. If you want to ask for support with putting together a risk assessment, or to check that you are operating safely, contact us on employmentandskills@tameside.gov.uk and we will put you in touch with the right team to work with on opening up safely.

**Staff Wellbeing (Mental Health).**

Our Tameside Business Leadership group have highlighted the health, both physical and mental, of their staff as being one of the major issues regarding the end of lockdown. The Government has asked businesses to have an awareness and focus on mental health in this time of uncertainty.

The Government funded [Working Well Early Help](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=55b752cd08&e=7ab728a9f9) scheme provides free support to help employees stay in, and return to work, if they are struggling with their health. Their telephone based service puts people in touch with a trained caseworker who can help them manage their health and wellbeing, with physiotherapy, mental health and health coaching. For more information call, text or email Tameside Engagement officer Michelle Plevin on 07880 412 532 0300 / [mplevin@maximusuk.co.uk](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=5e1cc2eff2&e=7ab728a9f9) or phone / email their contact team on 0300 456 8107 (local rate) / workingwellearlyhelp@maximusuk.co.uk

Additionally, there are a range of other resources available to support businesses and workers to manage their mental health.
[Tameside & Glossop Mental Health Support including Mental Health Support for Staff](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=70bf22f493&e=7ab728a9f9)
[Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health and Work During the Coronavirus Outbreak](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=df9753652b&e=7ab728a9f9)
[Mental Health at Work, Your first stop for better Mental Health at Work](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=a3c629fa81&e=7ab728a9f9)

**Travelling to work.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, public transport services have been cut back, with the need to preserve social distancing making many services difficult to deliver. The Government has been clear workers should try to avoid public transport where necessary, by walking, cycling or driving to work instead.

Transport for Greater Manchester have produced a [website which provides help and support with making safe journeys to work by bike or on foot and their ongoing #SafeStreetsSaveLives campaign](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=43c97a1702&e=7ab728a9f9). Businesses can contact TFGM at sustainable.journeys@tfgm.com to discuss the support they can offer in helping employees with starting to commute by bike.

**Space to work.**

We recognise that some businesses may need to re-open, but don't have space in their premises to do so safely and efficiently. If you are worried that you won't be able to operate safely in your current building, please contact us at employmentandskills@tameside.gov.uk, and we can have a discussion about your needs and availability of other premises in the borough.

**Contact tracing.**

As the development of a contract tracing process continues, with a digital app dominating the news, it is becoming clearer that businesses and local authorities will need to work closely to ensure that this vital part of the fight against the virus is done well. We will ensure we keep our businesses up to date with developments and work closely with you to ensure that your voice is heard in this process.

**Job Retention Scheme**

[The Government has announced an extension to the Job Retention Scheme, which will keep it in place until at least 31 October 2020](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=dc083d905b&e=7ab728a9f9).

The scheme will continue in its current form , [paying 80% of wages to workers who have been furloughed and who are not doing any work for the business](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=a558f3f401&e=7ab728a9f9), until the end of July. From the start of August changes will be made to introduce more flexibility, to support a phased end to lockdown.

Guidance on how to make a claim under the scheme, the information to have to hand, and what to do after you have claimed is here:

1. [Before you start](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=e826f514a2&e=7ab728a9f9).
2. [What you’ll need](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=c305e749de&e=7ab728a9f9).
3. [How to claim](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=2da742fcaa&e=7ab728a9f9).
4. [After you’ve claimed](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=d359b79b92&e=7ab728a9f9).

**Self-Employment Support Package**

 [The Government's self-employment support scheme is now open for claims.](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=6833b7a959&e=7ab728a9f9)

Individuals are eligible for the support if their business has been adversely affected by coronavirus, they traded in the tax year 2019 to 2020, intend to continue trading, and they:

* earn at least half of their income through self-employment
* have trading profits of no more than £50,000 per year
* traded in the tax year 2018 to 2019 and submitted their self-assessment tax return on or before 23 April 2020 for that year

HMRC calculate the amount to be paid to each eligible claimant based on an average of the tax returns for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

You can check if you are eligible for the scheme [here](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=ff7dd3da10&e=7ab728a9f9).

The Greater Manchester [Enterprising You](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=fbd0b6ab64&e=7ab728a9f9) support scheme for the self-employed is still offering advice, guidance and coaching specifically for the self-employed.

**Business rates relief and grants**

The Government's £10,000 Small Business Rates Relief Grant and £25,000 Retail, Leisure and Hospitality sector grant schemes **are still open**. [You can see the guidance for these schemes on the council's website](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=2a66bf5da9&e=7ab728a9f9). If you think you may be eligible but have not yet applied for, or received a grant, please get in touch with us at BusinessRates@tameside.gov.uk or call 0161 342 2233.

**Linking people to employment**

A new service has been launched to help match the skills of our residents with demand for employees across Greater Manchester. If you wish to advertise a vacancy, or look for work [Employ GM](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=1938972312&e=7ab728a9f9) is now live.

Tameside Council usually holds two job fairs a year. However, due to the current situation, instead of a physical job fair we are sharing current opportunities in Tameside online for people seeking employment or extra income. Click here to [visit the virtual jobs fair](https://liveworkinvest.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c82daebd778d6cd9667beed7e&id=95a1dfabcf&e=7ab728a9f9).