

## News Bulletin: October 2020



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### Business & Enterprise Support

Freston Road Hub is an enterprise hub, managed by Sobus (a Fulham based charity), and supported by our Landlords, Peabody Housing Trust and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Our aim is to support local enterprise – through the provision of affordable office and meeting room space, as well as through access to training and support.



Sobus is pleased to continue to offer significant discounts for desk hire, hot desk, room hire and mailbox services for local businesses and entrepreneurs at our Freston Road Hub – please contact us for further information: [reception.frh@sobus.org.uk](mailto:reception.frh@sobus.org.uk)

- Mailbox service & Registered business address
- Fully Serviced Office available 24/7 from £270pcm
- Flexible space – grow or, downsize
- Business support, training & networking opportunities
- Pay as you go Hot desk – Special Offer Ten full day sessions a month for £195

Sobus can provide 1-2-1 support to RBKC entrepreneurs who need some mentoring and support to get their businesses going. We can help with:

- Developing your business and action plan
- Planning and developing your website
- Marketing and promotion
- Production and distribution
- Putting basic things in place

**This service is available for free to RBKC residents. (Priority will be given to individuals who are residents in the North Kensington ward of RBKC and/or are Peabody Housing Trust tenants in RBKC.)**

## Covid News



## New Tier 2 rules: What do they mean for you and your business?

What changes can you expect as London moves to **High risk (Tier 2)** of Covid 19?

- You should not meet people indoors unless they are members of your **household/support bubble**
- you can still meet up to **five other people outside** while observing social distancing
- **Childcare bubble** for under 14 year olds – an individual outside the child's immediate household can form a care bubble to help look after them.
- You should keep **travel to a minimum** and do not go to any area classed as very high (tier3).

## **Extension of the coronavirus business interruption loan schemes**

The Government has extended their three Coronavirus business interruption loan schemes to the 30th November 2020. The **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme** (CBILS), the **Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme** (CLBILS), the **Bounce Back Loan Scheme** (BBLs) have all been extended. The extension aligns all the end dates of the schemes, when previously they had different ending date.

## **Changes to the Job Support Scheme - To be introduced from the 1st November**

The **Job Support Scheme** will run for six months, **covering staff working on reduced hours or staff working for businesses that have been legally required to close**. Employers will pay the wages of staff for any hours worked, but where hours are reduced will receive 66.67% of their normal pay for the hours not worked, to a maximum of £3,125. Businesses will pay 5% of reference salary for the hours not worked, whilst the government will pay the remaining 61.67%. To be eligible employees must be working at least 20% of their normal hours.

Where employees are not working at all because their employer has been required to close as a result of coronavirus restrictions, employees will receive 2/3rds of their normal pay, fully funded by the government, to a maximum of £2,083.33 per month.

**[Click here for the latest Sobus Covid Bulletin](#)**

## **News & Opportunities**

### **Wheels in motion on Kensington cycle lanes**

New temporary cycle lanes are being installed in Kensington High Street. Lines are being painted and wands are being installed for the protected cycle lanes on both sides of the road. This first phase of work is expected to take around three weeks and won't cause any bus stops or road closures.

[Read the full story](#)



## [New FREE Peer-to-Peer Networking Programme for SMEs](#)

West London Business has been selected by London Business Hub to deliver the Government's new Peer Networks programme locally.

This programme will establish diverse groups of business leaders from across West London to work collaboratively through business issues and widen professional networks.

Each network will use interactive action learning to enable you to discuss your own challenges, gain and reflect on valuable feedback from your peers, and implement practical solutions to overcome problems and challenges.

From finance and HR to sales, marketing and more, expert facilitators will work with you to give you the flexibility to create a trusted support network – helping you to build and strengthen your business and improve its overall performance.

Peer Networks is a **free** programme delivered through a series of high-impact group sessions, with each cohort led by a trained facilitator. [Click here](#)

## Are you a hospitality business still offering dining discounts?

Eat Out to Help Out may have officially ended but many restaurants, pubs and cafes are continuing to offer diners discounts on food.

We're looking to feature these businesses and highlight where visitors and residents can eat locally for a great deal. If you'd like your business to be featured, let us know at:

[business@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:business@rbkc.gov.uk).

## Employer incentives for hiring new apprentices go live

As part of the Government's Plan for Jobs, employers will receive £2,000 for each new apprentice aged under 25 they hire, and £1,500 for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over, up to the 31st January 2021. Any organisation can apply for the payment, no matter the size or the sector. [Find out more here.](#)

## Become a resilience partner and submit a challenge for the Mayor's Resilience Fund

The Resilience Fund is the Mayor's £1 million innovation programme to support London's businesses and community groups to emerge stronger from the current coronavirus crisis, and to ensure the capital is better prepared for future emergencies.

The first stage is to make sure that the most important challenges facing London are identified, and finding the right partners for the fund - almost any type of organisation can apply to become a resilience partner and submit a challenge, including: business improvement districts, business and community groups, social enterprises, small and medium-sized businesses and charities. Applications are now open [here](#)

### **Business Guidance - Help and support for VAT.**

Get help with VAT by using videos, webinars, online courses and email updates from HMRC. Click [here](#)

## London Mayor's Start Up, Step Up London

An initiative to help Londoners currently under represented in business start-ups and growth to develop their skills and open pathways. This programme is part of the London Mayor's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds. If you are ready to start your business journey, register [here](#).

## London & Partners' Business Growth Programme

Offers free impartial business advice and support to SMEs looking to grow across London.

This programme can help unlock your business potential by identifying barriers to growth and providing tailored solutions including mentoring, workshops, business growth advice and opportunities across London & Partners network.

Sign up to the programme via [businessgrowth.london](https://businessgrowth.london).

## New trade arrangements with the EU from 1 January 2021

HMRC have written to businesses about the new trading arrangements when the UK leave the EU single market and customs Union. You can find a copy of the letter [here](#).

## News for Entrepreneurs, Start-ups & Businesses

**Entrepreneurs, start-ups and businesses** get the latest news and information on events and opportunities in the borough – [Sign up here](#) **The K&C Life newsletter** to avoid missing out.

Lastly, if you have a Twitter account, why not give our tweets a like or RT to help spread the message? Follow us at [@RBKC](#). You can also follow our [Instagram](#) account for photo and video content from the Council.

## **Funding**

### The London Business Hub has launched their COVID-19 Recovery Grants

All applications submitted will be reviewed and assessed on a **first come, first served basis** and funding will be available until the £1m available has been allocated.

**Eligible SMEs can access grants of between £1,000 – £5,000.** To prepare, please see the checklist below:

1. Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to check your eligibility and what the grant can fund
2. Check what [information](#) is required for the application

If you meet the requirements of the grant scheme, prepare and [submit](#) the information for your application

## **Up to £5,000 in match funding available through the Pay It Forward London crowdfunding platform**

Through the Back to Business Fund, the £1m Back to Business Fund will match every pound raised by a business up to a maximum of £5,000 - or 50% of their campaign target. [Find out more.](#)

## **£5m Small business grants programme from Facebook**

Facebook has announced a major small business grants programme for small businesses in London, worth almost £5m in cash grants and ad credits to hundreds of small businesses in London. Find out more on their [dedicated website](#).