



MakeItYork



COVID-19 Funding Options for York Businesses

15th April 2020

Make It York are working in partnership with CYC and The BID to deliver business support where available during these challenging times.

There are a growing number of funding options to support York businesses during the ongoing situation. This document will be updated as and when we find out additional information. It is designed to be clear and straightforward. Please also refer to <https://www.york.gov.uk/BusinessSupport> for additional information or here from the Govt, <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS AS AT 15th April AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ON A FREQUENT BASIS. PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITES LISTED ABOVE OR CONTACT MIY FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

We know from talking to local businesses that the key piece of information is how to access each of these funds. That information is included where available and where it is not known we have provided the up to date guidance.

Our primary role continues to be to support York businesses. We are here to listen so please get in touch with your questions. Our email address is business@makeityork.com

1. Business Rates and Grants

What - 100% business rates holiday for 12 months for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses. This has been extended to include estate & letting agents, bingo halls, betting shops, pawn shops, casinos and tutors.

How – CYC have updated eligible accounts to stop Direct Debits. If you pay by Standing Order please cancel. If you pay by cash please stop.

What – 100% business rates holiday for all nurseries, based on premises which are occupied by providers on Ofsted's Early Years Register or are wholly or mainly used for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage

What - £25,000 grants to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000

How – Online form is live and grants are being paid out <https://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDBusinessGrant>

What - businesses eligible for Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) will receive a one-off £10,000 cash payment

How – Online form now live. <https://www.york.gov.uk/form/COVIDBusinessGrant>

2. **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**

Support available that will cover 80% of salary payments to a cap of £2500 per employee per month. This is to help protect the jobs of workers who would otherwise lose their jobs as a result of COVID-19. Employees will have to be designated as furloughed (granted a leave of absence) and HMRC will need to be advised. Employers will continue to pay 100% of wages and HMRC will reimburse 80% of those workers who are designated as furloughed. HMRC portal due to open on 20th April with first payments being made on 30th April.

3. **Commercial Property Rent**

Relevant to businesses where CYC are their property landlord. CYC have confirmed that rents will be deferred for 3 months. At the present time this is a deferral and payment will still be due but at a later date. If your property is owned by a private sector landlord then we recommend having a conversation with them asap if you haven't already done so. There maybe further news from the Government in relation to support for Commercial Property landlords.

4. **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBIL)**

- Up to £5M available to eligible businesses ie. SME's with T/O up to £45M.
- Scheme delivered by a range of 40 different lenders including high street banks
- Govt will provide an 80% guarantee to the banks. This still means that the borrower is fully liable for all amounts borrowed.
- First 12 mths interest and fee free.
- Banks will only be lending to viable businesses based on their pre COVID-19 position. If the bank would have lent you money 2 months ago then they should still be looking to lend you money now using this scheme.
- Bank will expect to see a business plan and up to date financial accounts.
- You will be expected to provide security in the form of a Personal Guarantee. Amounts differ from lender to lender.
- Contact your lender direct to apply.
- Also consider seeking support from local finance brokers to discuss alternative options including [Pinpoint Finance](#), [Red Sky](#) or [Acorn Commercial Finance](#).

5. **Self Employed**

Announced on 26th March, self-employed workers can claim 80% of their earnings (capped at £2500 per mth). Total earnings have to be less than £50K per annum and more than 50% of your income has to come from self-employment. HMRC will contact eligible businesses and applications will be online. Amounts due will be based on previously filed tax returns and you have until 23rd April to file your self assessment return for the year 2018-2019.

6. **Sick Pay**

Businesses with up to 250 employees can reclaim up to 2 weeks Statutory Sick Pay if the absence is due to COVID-19. The support applies when the employee is in self-isolation as well as being sick. This scheme can be back dated to 13th March. Staff sickness records should be maintained in the usual manner although employees do not need to provide a GP sick note. How the funds will be paid back is to be confirmed. Further information is available on this briefing paper from employment law specialists,

Torque Law (please note information may have updated since this paper was written)

<https://torquelaw.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Job-retention-March.pdf>

7. **CYC Emergency Fund**

This was announced on 25th March. Full details to be confirmed in next couple of days but the intention is that funding support will be made available direct from CYC to small / micro businesses and the self-employed. This scheme will not be open to businesses who are eligible for the £10K & £25K business rates schemes. The application process is now live <https://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDMicroGrant>

8. **VAT Deferrals**

VAT payments for all UK businesses will be deferred until the end of the current tax year, this applies to VAT falling due from now until 30 June 2020. If you're self-employed, Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to January 2021.

Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.

HMRC also have a time to pay plan in place. Contact them on 0800 0159 559

9. **Companies House Filing Extension**

Registered companies can apply for a 3 month extension in relation to filing their year end accounts. We are advised that extensions will be automatically granted where the delay is due to COVID-19.

You still have to apply for an extension and state that COVID-19 is the reason for the delay. Applications should be made here,

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-guidance-for-companies-house-customers-employees-and-suppliers>

10. **Federation of Small Businesses**

The FSB are updating their own website with details of support available for small and micro-businesses including the self-employed. Further details available here, <https://www.fsb.org.uk/campaign/covid19.html>

11. **Job Opportunities / Volunteering**

Jobs - Follow the York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub page on Facebook. They are sharing details of job opportunities available across their patch.

Volunteering – City of York Council are co-ordinating all offers to volunteer. Please apply via this link, <https://www.york.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/information-coronavirus>

12. **Culture Sector Support**

If your business operates in this sector then the Arts Council has announced a range of support options. Please review these options here, <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19>

13. **MOT Testing**

The Govt have applied a 6mth extension to vehicles that have a MOT test due from 30th March. This applies to cars, motorcycles and vans but owners are responsible for keeping vehicles in a roadworthy condition. Any MOT's falling due prior to 30th March still need to follow the established process and we are advised that MOT testing centres have appropriate measures in place to protect staff and customers. Test certificates will be automatically updated with a 6mth extension from 30th March and insurance companies are aware of the change.

14. TechForce 19

This scheme is aimed at innovators who are being challenged to come up with new digital ways to support the elderly, vulnerable and self-isolating. Up to £25K is available from the Govt to enable businesses to test their proposed solutions. This could be a new technology to help support remote social care or it could be something to help improve mental health and wellbeing whilst remote working. Further information and application details can be found here. <https://techforce19.uk/>

15. Insurance Cover

COVID-19 will be registered as a notifiable disease in the UK to help businesses in making insurance claims.

Department of Health and Social Care.

“To mitigate the impact on businesses, we will register COVID-19 as a notifiable disease. This will help companies seek compensation through their insurance policies in the event of any cancellations they may have to make as a result of the spread of the virus.”

Association of British Insurers (ABI) “Commercial insurance policies provide cover against a wide range of risks, that can be tailored to the needs of individual businesses, including extensions to cover. Businesses who are concerned about this should check the scope of their cover, and speak to their insurance adviser or broker. “It may be possible to buy consequential business interruption cover for notifiable diseases as an extension to a business insurance policy, subject to any policy terms and conditions. Standard business insurance policies are designed and priced to cover standard risks, not those that are very unlikely, such as the effects of COVID-19.”

16. Existing Grant Schemes

All existing grant schemes (pre COVID-19) remain in place and we are here to help businesses access them, particularly where those schemes may be adapted to support businesses dealing with the current situation. Full details are to be confirmed but this includes the Digital Enterprise Grant and Ad:Venture. We will update more here once information is available. Please see the links below for details of existing schemes:

<https://www.the-lep.com/business-support/growth-support/>

<https://www.digitalenterprise.co.uk/>

<https://ad-venture.org.uk/>

<https://www.papi.org.uk/> & <https://www.howsbusiness.org/>

