

Business support and advice

From Horsham District Council

Business rates relief through the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund

The Government's COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) is to support businesses affected by the pandemic who are not eligible for existing support linked to business rates.

The aim of this scheme is to provide Business Rates Relief for the financial year 2021/22 to those businesses who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact.

Check your eligibility and apply on our Coronavirus: Business Support Grants webpage.

[Check and apply](#)

Help to Grow Digital: a new Government-backed scheme

The Government has recently launched Help to Grow: Digital, a scheme to help businesses use the latest digital technology to cut costs, save time, reach new customers and be more competitive.

The free impartial support service can show you how digital technology can boost your business performance, and is available alongside a software voucher scheme, where eligible businesses will be able to apply for a discount of up to 50% on the costs of approved software, worth up to £5,000.



[Find out more](#)

Retail Training Programme workshops come to an end

The Retail Training Programme marked its final workshops in Pop Up Horsham last week as Alison Edgar MBE, The Entrepreneur's Godmother and Managing Director of Sales Coaching Solutions, presented to local businesses. The workshop covered the secrets of successful sales.

The free workshops from the West Sussex Retail Programme, have been a great opportunity for local businesses to gain valuable insights from business leaders and experts. Even though Pop Up Horsham is closing, the West Sussex Retail Hub will continue to provide training and information for businesses across Horsham District.

Did you take part in the Retail Training Programme? We'd love to hear your feedback: please fill in our [online feedback form](#).



Webinar: Key trends for 2022

Join this free Small Business Britain webinar to find out what's in store for 2022.

In this session, sales and retail expert Catherine Erdly will run through the following:

- A recap of 2021 - what happened and why
- A look ahead at 2022 - the key trends that are on the horizon
- What these trends mean for your business
- The key action you need to take as we move into the New Year

You'll leave this session with a clear understanding of what is ahead for 2022, with a burst of inspiration to kickstart your planning!

[Sign up](#)

Share your Food Hygiene Rating with pride!

With Plan B Covid restrictions coming to an end and the hospitality industry returning to normal, Horsham District Council's Environmental Health team is urging local businesses to remember the importance of food safety and refocus on hygiene in their kitchens.

Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection Cllr Tricia Youtan commented:



"It has been a tough couple of years for food businesses but now as we come out of the restrictions the future is looking brighter for the hospitality industry and this is an important trading time coming up.

"A good food hygiene rating is something to be proud of and it matters a lot to customers.

As a council we are here to support local businesses as much as we can to achieve the hygiene standards required for the protection of their customers, and not adhering to the required safety standards is not acceptable."

If you're a food business, display your rating with pride as it means a lot to customers. For advice and guidance on improving your rating, visit the [Council website](#) or book an [advisory audit](#).



**EXPERIENCE
WEST SUSSEX**

Free workshops for tourism businesses

Funding and grants for hospitality and leisure businesses

Join Experience West Sussex for an online session about accessing financial support for hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses and related supply chain.

Chaired by Visitor Economy expert, Jo Williams, Jo will discuss the wider business support for the visitor economy in West Sussex. We'll also be joined by Council Funding expert Kevin Stewart who will present funding options available to visitor economy businesses across West Sussex.

[Book a place](#)

Taking England to the World - presented by Visit Britain

Tuesday 1 March - 0930-1700 Worthing Pavilion Atrium

Experience West Sussex has partnered with Visit Britain to bring you the Taking England to the World programme, which will help you to get ready to reach out to old and new customers alike. This training is aimed at **all sectors of the English travel industry** – accommodation to attractions, and from excursions to experiences.

Whilst particularly suitable for SMEs, larger organisations are also welcome to attend. You will learn about **everything from inbound and domestic tourism**, common obstacles to market, the markets, **defining product offer and the travel distribution system**. You will hear how to build strong relationships, price your products and create engaging content.

This programme is supported by VisitEngland Academy learning portal, which will provide a blended learning experience.

[Book a place](#)

Match-funding for small businesses and shop landlords

The following schemes are open to applications from businesses, start-ups and landlords. You will need to match fund the grant funding by contributing towards your total project cost with your own investment.

LEAP funding for small businesses: Apply for up to £2,000 to help grow your business

[Apply for LEAP](#)

Shop Improvement Grants: Apply for up to £4,000 to improve your premises. Open to both shop owners and landlords of currently vacant premises.

[Apply for a Shop Improvement Grant](#)



Get set for Growth events

Get Set for Growth has launched a new set of Meet the Experts workshops focusing on key issues for businesses. There are sessions on funding and tax credits, debt finance, equity finance and more.



GetSet for Growth focuses on helping businesses overcome the two biggest barriers to growth – generating sufficient profitable customers and accessing finance.

[Find out more](#)

