



## **This is the twenty third in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information**

### **Applications for Coronavirus Future Fund closes end September 2020**

The Future Fund provides government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors.

These convertible loans may be an option for businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access other government business support programmes because they are either pre-revenue or pre-profit.

The scheme is open for applications until the end of September 2020.

More information, eligibility and how to apply can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/future-fund>

### **NHS Wales Procurement – Could your business benefit?**

**Tuesday 29th September 2020 (14:00-15:00)**

Despite the current high profile need for PPE, many small businesses are unaware of opportunities to supply into NHS Wales and of how to secure this work which can be a key driver to help small businesses grow. This webinar, organised by the Federation of Small Businesses and Hywel Dda Health Board, and supported by NHS Procurement, Industry Wales and Business Wales, will provide an opportunity for small businesses in Wales to:

- hear about what the NHS in Wales needs, and how other small businesses have taken advantage of opportunities within Hywel Dda Health Board
- learn about how to secure work through NHS procurement, and support available to help businesses
- ask questions about NHS Procurement to a panel of experts (attendees are requested to submit questions when registering for the event through the booking link)

[More information and booking your place](#)



## **Cwmbran haulier helps independent businesses adapt to new shopping habits**

A Cwmbran haulier is supporting the survival of local businesses by helping firms adapt to selling online.

Bridgetime Transport Ltd has assisted independent retailers with setting up a delivery method to reach customers nationwide during the COVID-19 lockdown. The move has enabled local businesses to sell to some of the 89% of UK consumers who have turned to online shopping during the UK lockdown (according to research from Visa), and scale up or down to meet demand.

The firm is now ready to support businesses kick starting operations following the easing of lockdown restrictions and looking for ways to reduce their business costs while accommodating fluctuating sales. [Read more.....](#)

## **Businesses urged to prepare for NHS COVID-19 APP**

Businesses across Wales and England like pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and cinemas, are being encouraged to have NHS QR code posters visible on entry, so customers who have downloaded the new NHS COVID-19 app can use their smartphones to easily check-in.

The move comes ahead of launching the NHS COVID-19 app across Wales and England on **Thursday 24 September 2020.**

Checking in with the app will enable people to keep a diary of the locations they have visited, which will be held securely in the app. If there is a COVID-19 outbreak linked to their visit, users will get an early warning alert from the NHS. If they have a positive test for COVID-19, people will be able to use the diary to tell contact tracing teams where they have been, helping to manage COVID-19 and protecting other people.

Venues should download the QR codes from the [GOV.UK website](#).

Further information can be found on the [GOV.Wales website](#).



## **Torfaen County Borough Council Business Consultation**

### **Temporary Traffic Management COVID Measures for Torfaen Town Centres**

Torfaen County Borough Council are inviting Torfaen businesses to give their views on the proposed temporary traffic management COVID measures. These changes are intended to support social distancing.

Consultation is being sought on the following roads. Please click on the links for full details of the measures

#### **Cwmbran**

- [St Lukes Road, Pontnewydd, road narrowing](#)
- [Commercial Street, Old Cwmbran, pavement widening](#)
- [Commercial Street, Pontnewydd, pavement widening](#)
- [Glyndwr Road, Cwmbran, footway widening](#)
- [Victoria Street, Old Cwmbran, footway widening](#)

#### **Pontypool**

- [Osborne Road, Pontypool, footway widening](#)
- [Windsor Road, Griffithstown, footway widening](#)
- [Clarence Street, Pontypool, footway widening](#)
- [Commercial Street, Pontypool, pavement widening](#)

#### **Blaenavon**

- [Broad Street South, Blaenavon, footway widening](#)
- [Broad Street North, Blaenavon, footway widening](#)
- [Woodland Street, Blaenavon, footway widening](#)
- [Broad Street, Blaenavon, footway widening](#)
- [Ivor Street, Blaenavon, footway widening](#)

**Consultation ends Friday 2nd October 2020 5pm**

For further information and to provide feedback please contact:

Craig Williams - Highways & Transportation, Torfaen County Borough Council

Telephone: 01495 742423/07980 682801 Email: [craig.williams@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:craig.williams@torfaen.gov.uk)



## **Torfaen businesses receive over £2.2M from Development Bank of Wales COVID-19 Wales Business Loan Scheme**

Over 30 Torfaen businesses have received in excess of £2.2 million from the Development Bank of Wales COVID-19 Wales Business Loan Scheme.

The £100m scheme, an element of the Welsh government's Economic Resilience Fund and launched during the first week of lockdown, was fully subscribed by mid-April.

The fund provided limited companies, partnerships and sole traders across Wales with loans between £5,000 and £250,000 at a fixed interest rate of 2%. Interest and capital repayment is not due on loans for the first 12 months. With no arrangement fees, an online application and very little paperwork to complete, the scheme offered businesses trading for longer than two years who were experiencing cash-flow difficulties as a result of the pandemic much needed support.

The latest figures from the Development Bank of Wales show that over 30 Torfaen businesses were lent £2.224m, with approximately 500 local jobs safeguarded. The average loan was approximately £72,000. Key sectors to benefit from support in Torfaen include retail, wholesale and manufacturing.

One Torfaen business to secure a COVID-19 Wales Business Loan is Avondale Engineering Limited. The Pontypool-based company specialise in designing and fabricating architectural metalwork for the construction industry. They also have their own in-house AutoCad design facilities.

[Read More...](#)

### **Are you looking for funding to support your business needs?**

The Development Bank of Wales and Torfaen County Borough Council – Economy & Enterprise team are delighted to be holding a **Business Support Clinic from 10.00 – 16:00 on**

#### **Thursday 1st October 2020 Virtual On line Business Support Clinic**

As locally based representatives we are dedicated to ensuring that the businesses we work with secure the funding and support they need to help with start-up costs or to grow your existing business.

At the session, you can find out more about local support available for your business. Working together we can provide funding to start or expand a business, supporting you with funding in order to purchase new equipment or even to buy a business. Whether you're a start-up or existing business, book on talk to us about your business and future plans. To book a 10 minute chat please click the [link](#):

**Please email: [info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk](mailto:info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk) if you have any further questions**



## Face masks in shops to be mandatory in Wales

First Minister Mark Drakeford has set out changes to the coronavirus regulations in Wales announcing that people in Wales must wear **face masks in shops and other indoor public spaces** from Monday 14 September 2020, but they would not be mandatory in workplaces.

Indoor meetings of more than six from an extended household will be illegal from Monday 14 September 2020.

The rule will not apply to children under 11 and up to 30 people from different homes can still meet outside.

The new restriction will apply in pubs and restaurants, as well as private homes.

Face coverings: guidance for public can be found <https://gov.wales/face-coverings-guidance-public>

For further information please visit the [GOV.Wales website](https://gov.wales).

**Economy & Enterprise Team – Business Support** - If you need to get in touch with an enquiry complete your [details here](#) and we will contact you as soon as possible.

## COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

## COVID-19: Support for businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Watch our twitter for further updates [@Torfaenbiz](https://twitter.com/Torfaenbiz)

All editions of our COVID-19 e-shot can be found/viewed [here](#)

All editions of our COVID-19 e-shot are also available in Welsh [here](#)