



This is the fifteenth in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information

PopUp Business School returning 'virtually' to Torfaen

21st – 23rd July 2020

Power up your start up or existing business!

The world has changed... Has your business?

Torfaen Economy and Enterprise along with Torfaen Foundation Economy and Torfaen Business Voice have partnered with PopUp Business School to bring you an exciting range of on-line sessions:

Tuesday 21st July - Day 1 is all about starting a business (know anyone starting up?)

Wednesday 22nd July & Thursday 23rd July - Days 2 & 3 are all about growing and strengthening your existing business

All sessions FREE, check them out and Book today!

This course will help you to grow your business and succeed in the new world of COVID-19.

WHAT IF YOU COULD...
POWER UP YOUR START-UP OR EXISTING BUSINESS?

STREAMING LIVE ONLINE FOR TORFAEN BUSINESSES
21 JULY - 23 JULY 2020

RESERVE YOUR SPACE:
POPUPBUSINESSSCHOOL.CO.UK/TORFAEN

OUR LIVE ONLINE COURSE IS SPONSORED BY LOCAL PARTNERS SO WE CAN GIVE OUR TRAINING **FOR FREE**

PopUp BUSINESS SCHOOL

Partners: Economy & Enterprise Torfaen, Economi a Mentergarwch, Torfaen Foundation Economy, Torfaen Business Voice.

"What is the PopUp Business School?"
We are the UK's leading alternative business course that shows you practical ways to start, sustain and thrive as a business regardless of where you're at on your journey.

"What do you mean free?"
The course is free thanks to the support of local sponsors. No one has EVER paid to attend. NO upselling. NO surprises. NO hidden terms and conditions. **We promise.**

"How will the course work?"
All three days will be impactful for new start-ups, but if you have an existing business you only need to attend days 2 & 3

"Why should I attend as a new start-up?"
If you are looking to start your business, develop your ideas, or just explore the option, our alternative method will help you to take action and make it happen allowing you to test the business before you give in. For the best results you'll want to attend all 3 days. You can do this by signing up for the "New Start-Up" ticket.

"Why should I attend as an existing business owner- I already know how to run a business?"
We want to focus on your Torfaen business. To help adapt it to operate in the new world, pivot to a new audience, thrive online, optimise your website and social media and even re-train your mindset to tackle the road ahead. Please sign up for the 2 day "Existing Business" ticket.

WHAT'S ON?

- Bootstrap your business
- Sales & marketing
- Build your online presence
- Find new customers online
- Build lasting relationships

Where and when are you running the course?
**STREAMING LIVE ONLINE FOR TORFAEN BUSINESSES
TUES 21 JULY - THURS 23 JULY 2020**

TO GAIN ACCESS PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPACE AT THE LINK BELOW
POPUPBUSINESSSCHOOL.CO.UK/TORFAEN

VIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE AND RESERVE YOUR SPACE AT:
POPUPBUSINESSSCHOOL.CO.UK/TORFAEN

@POPUPBUSINESS #POPUPREVOLUTION

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Torfaen Start up Grant: Applications now open

This is a grant to provide financial assistance for newly created businesses that are facing operational and financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The purpose of the grant is to support newly created businesses with immediate cash flow support to help them survive the economic consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak. The grant seeks to complement other Covid-19 response measures to support businesses, social enterprises and charitable organisations in Wales.

The eligibility criteria for the £2,500 grant is as follows:

- **Started trading between 1st April 2019 and 1st March 2020**
- Forecast annual turnover less than £50,000
- Not in receipt of Self Employment Income Support, Non Domestic Rate Grant, Economic Resilience Fund
- Businesses must be operating in Wales
- Businesses must have **one** or more of the following
 - HMRC Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) Number
 - VAT Registration Number or a VAT exemption certificate
 - Written correspondence confirming registration with HMRC
 - Have experienced a drop in turnover greater than >50% as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak between April and June 2020
 - Supported businesses must aim to maintain employment for 12 months

For further information on this grant please read the [Start Up Grant Guidance Notes](#)

The Eligibility Checker for this grant can be found [here](#)

Applications can be made from 29th June 2020 via this link:

https://iweb.itouchvision.com/portal/f?p=customer:category_link:::::CUID,LANG:A8EE6F20C0EE01F7802E0553914601A8EC0D0EF0,EN&P_LANG=en



Economic Resilience Fund Phase 2 – now open for applications

Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) Phase 2 is now open for applications.

The ERF Phase 2 is designed to support businesses, social enterprises and charities that are not eligible for other Welsh Government COVID-19 non-repayable grant support schemes.

Eligible businesses can claim up to:

- £10,000 for micro businesses
- £100,000 for SMEs
- £690,000 for large businesses

The Fund is open to applications until 10 July 2020 (or until the fund is fully committed).

More information [here](#)

Flexible Furlough Scheme Starts

A month earlier than previously announced, businesses will have the flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis from today as part of the government's plan to re-open the UK economy.

The scheme will remain open until the end of October and will continue to support jobs and business in a measured way

Individual firms will decide the hours and shift patterns employees will work on their return, so they can decide on the best approach for them. Businesses will be responsible for paying employees' wages while in work.

Further information [here](#).



Coronavirus: guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses for a phased and safe re-opening

The purpose of this guidance (published 29th June) is to inform businesses working in the visitor economy in Wales of ongoing legal restrictions and requirements related to the coronavirus, and to help them re-open when this is allowed.

Test, Trace, Protect – in this guidance you will find links to the Test, Trace, Protect strategy which exists to enhance health surveillance in the community, undertake effective and extensive contact tracing, and support people to self-isolate where required to do so. The Welsh Government has published [guidance on employers' responsibilities to help with COVID-19 testing and contact tracing](#). Contact tracing is an important part of Test Trace Protect strategy which will help us live and work alongside the virus while research continues to find more effective treatments and a vaccine.

The visitor economy encompasses all staying and non-staying visitors and the activities and expenditure involved in supplying products and services for visitors by both the private and public sectors. It covers a multitude of different working environments, from outdoor paid for attractions to indoor attractions like museums. It also includes a variety of activities and events.

This guidance is designed to be relevant for people who work within the visitor economy, for example:

- people who operate or run hotels and other types of accommodation
- people who operate Indoor and outdoor visitor attractions
- people who run or manage spaces for business or leisure events and conferences
- people who run pubs, bars and restaurants for food settings

Further information can be found at gov.wales



Torfaen business club hosts a succession of successful virtual networking events

Torfaen Business Voice, a successful business networking club in south wales with over 65 members, has held a number of virtual networking meeting over the past few months. Over 40 people took advantage of the opportunity to not only showcase their businesses and organisations during a rounds of virtual networking, but also to share their business experiences during the COVID-19 crisis.

Chair of Torfaen Business Voice, Ashley Harkus, Managing Partner at Everett Tomlin Lloyd and Pratt Solicitors said “This was the first time we had undertaken this way of networking and I am pleased to say it was a great way of keeping in touch with our members and shows how we, as a club, are able to adapt to the needs of businesses at the moment. We learn a great deal from each other. Being able to talk about how businesses are coping and adapting in innovative ways along with their plans on how to emerge from the current situation was invaluable. I am looking forward to the next one.”

The next virtual Torfaen Business Voice meeting is next **Wednesday 8th July, 11am**. If you would like to find out more about virtual networking through Torfaen Business Voice please email [Joanne John](mailto:Joanne.John@torfaen.gov.uk) at Torfaen Economy & Enterprise.

Superfast Business Wales: Secure your business, secure your future with digital

Digital provides an opportunity to ‘future-proof’ your business – letting you do business safely and efficiently online, helping you secure your customer base, and ultimately your business’ future.

Superfast Business Wales will provide free advice to help businesses put this into practice in their free webinar series ‘Secure Your Business, Secure Your Future With Digital’ on 13th and 15th July:

- Staying Safe Online - Cyber Security 13 July 10:00 - 12:00 Multiple choice
- Winning Customer Loyalty – 13 July 12:30 - 14:30 Multiple choice
- Improving Performance – 15 July 09:00 - 11:00 Multiple choice
- The Online Office – 15 July 11:30 - 13:30

[Choose your free webinar\(s\) and register here](#)



Government unveils £200 million package to help innovative businesses bounce back

The Sustainable Innovation Fund will help companies recovering from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) keep their cutting-edge projects and ideas alive.

- Almost £200 million boost to help businesses across the UK drive forward cutting-edge new tech and recover from the impacts of coronavirus
- government investment to support innovations ranging from AI systems managing city traffic flows to the latest reusable packaging materials
- research and development (R&D) intensive businesses urged to apply for funding to turn ingenious ideas into new technologies

Innovative ideas and projects led by companies recovering from the impact of coronavirus will not be lost, thanks to a new £200 million fund launched today (Saturday 27 June).

This funding, delivered through Innovate UK, forms part of a wider £750 million package of grants and loans announced in April to support innovative firms. This sits alongside the new £500 million [Future Fund](#), which provides match-funding to private investors, and has already received over 500 applications since its launch on 20 May.

Businesses can apply for support through the Sustainable Innovation Fund by [visiting the Innovate UK website](#) from Monday 29 June.

Are you a business in Torfaen that has a story on how you have helped in the fight against Covid 19, please get in touch so we can help you promote your business' efforts and encourage other local businesses to do the same? E-mail: info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk

If you are a business in Torfaen, ready to open for your customers let us know by including us [@Torfaenbiz](#) & our [Facebook page](#) in your posts using [#Openforbusiness](#) with pictures.

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](#)