

## BID4Oban COVID-19 Update 20 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

We are keeping businesses updated with the latest information regarding the outbreak of Corona Virus. Stay safe. This is the first update since 1<sup>st</sup> May as many of the messages were becoming repetitive.

### Update from Argyll and Bute Council:

- **Extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to the end of October 2020.** On 12<sup>th</sup> May, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced changes to this scheme. Crucially furloughed workers across the UK will continue to receive 80% of their current salary, up to £2,500 a month. The big change, as from August, is that workers will be able to return to their jobs part-time, with employers being asked to pay towards the salaries of their furloughed staff (no confirmed details of the required employer contribution).

The Scottish Government is in discussions with the UK Treasury about how the changes to this scheme will apply in Scotland, where Scottish companies are being urged not to call staff back to work early while the coronavirus lockdown remains in place.

- **Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund** - results as at 9.30 a.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> May:

- 95 applications have been received
- 58 grants have been awarded
- £116k has now been awarded.

Currently on track to meet the 10 working days processing target from receipt of a fully completed application.

- **Business Support Grant** – results as at 9.30 a.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> May:

- 2,785 applications have been received
- 2,519 applications have been processed
- 2,256 grants have been awarded
- £24.73m has now been awarded.

If you have an update on support to businesses that you would like me to include in these emails, please do forward the information.

The Council's website includes a **summary of the current support available for businesses** <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-businesses> including the downloadable **interactive infographic**.

### Oban Times

We continue to work with the Oban Times with their Open for Business Feature. This is available in print and online. If you would like your business included in this then contact BID4Oban directly for inclusion.

<https://www.obantimes.co.uk/openforbusiness/>

### Oban Business Club

BID4Oban are working alongside Oban Business Club to create an online forum for the Oban and Lorn Business community. This is an opportunity to businesses to register free of charge to input into the recovery process post COVID-19. Please register for further information.

<https://www.obanview.com/meetings/oban-business-club/>

## Help and Advice Webcast

One of our Levy Payers, Marsh Commercial, Previously JELf Clark Thomson is hosting a webcast offering advice to the business community. You do not need to be one of their customers to attend and businesses may find this useful

COVID-19: High Street Recovery – Discovery of the "New Normal" – Client Webcast

Navigating the path to recovery will be complex as retailers discover what the "new normal" means for their business. There is however an opportunity during the reset. The decisions and actions which organisations take now, will make a real difference to the speed and quality of the recovery.

Join us on Wednesday 20 May at 11.00am

(GMT), <[https://mmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GlnbINMsQFK6DEbZG3d7bw](https://mmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GlnbINMsQFK6DEbZG3d7bw)> for a 45-minute webcast to discuss the tools available on your path to recovery.

Register here <[https://mmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GlnbINMsQFK6DEbZG3d7bw](https://mmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GlnbINMsQFK6DEbZG3d7bw)>

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