

Coast to Capital Growth Hub

Coast to Capital Support Stakeholder Update

This is the latest update of the support that Coast to Capital LEP and the Coast to Capital Growth Hub Team are providing to businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business Recovery Grants Paused

Due to the unprecedented level of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for funding we have received please note that we will be pausing our Business Recovery Grants scheme on **Friday 9 October**.

- If businesses would like to apply for a grant, they will need to submit an EOI before the deadline.
- Once the businesses have submitted an EOI, our team will process them as soon as possible
- If successful, businesses will be invited to complete a full application. We will continue to process existing EOIs and also full applications beyond the deadline.

More information available online [here](#).

Peer Networks Programme – Applications still open

Peer Networks is a national peer-to-peer networking programme for small business leaders who want to grow and develop their organisation for future success.

Delivered locally by our Growth Hub, the [newly launched programme](#) creates diverse cohort groups of individuals to collaboratively work through common business issues. Through interactive action learning, this enables the discussion of challenges and provides valuable feedback to implement practical solutions to overcome them. From finance and HR to sales, marketing and more, an expert facilitator will give business leaders the flexibility to create a trusted support network, helping them to build and strengthen their business and improve overall performance.

The programme is available to any SME business that has:

- operated for at least one year
- at least five employees
- a turnover of at least £100,000

- an aspiration to improve
- And ideally has the potential to scale up or export or is exporting already.

The programme is completely **free** and businesses can register their interest [here](#).

This Peer Networks programme will be delivered by the Coast to Capital Growth Hub, [in partnership with MDHUB](#). Please note that this programme is not available to businesses in Croydon or Lewes, as they are funded respectively by the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) and the South East LEP (SELEP).

There are a **number of places still available**, and so would appreciate it if you could share this with your colleagues, network, and/or members.

Create a Coronavirus NHS QR Code for Businesses

Businesses should create and display a QR code if they are:

- a business, place of worship or community organisation with a physical location that is open to the public
- an event which is taking place in a physical location

Businesses will need to encourage visitors to scan the QR code when they arrive, using the NHS COVID-19 app. This is to help trace and stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If a business has more than one venue, they need to create a separate QR code for each location. Businesses can add multiple locations in the service.

More information on how to create a QR code for display in venues is online [here](#).

ERDF Kick-Start Tourism and Restart and Recovery SME Grants

Due to overwhelming interest in the ERDF Kick-Start Tourism and Restart and Recovery SME grants, the call for completing the gateway diagnostic tools has now closed. Submissions will now be validated by Exemplas and those who are eligible will be contacted.

As demand far exceeded our expectations, we were forced to close both schemes during the launch day on Tuesday 15 September. We are now analysing the responses we have received to assess whether funds potentially remain available.

We only had around 100 grants available to distribute, but if some funds are left we will make an early decision on how applicants can access these.

Please note that Exemplas will be working through the submitted gateway diagnostic tools as quickly as possible but this is taking longer than expected.

Growth Hub Business Support

The Coast to Capital Growth Hub is expertly positioned to give business support for businesses through our team of government funded growth advisers. Our team of Growth Relationship Managers work with the businesses, assess their needs and introduce solutions.

They can help identify potential sources of funding, facilitate growth strategies and connect clients with partner providers of support. The Growth Relationship Managers undertake a structured review to identify the key areas to address to realise the business's growth ambitions. Following the review the Growth Hub team can fund a day of a specialist's time in a key identified area.

Our Growth Hub recently published a case study showcasing support provided to Lorama Foods. **Rachel Lavelle, director of Lorama Foods said:**

"There's no way we'd be as far along today as we are without the Coast to Capital Growth Hub. I wouldn't have had time to even think about where else I could go. The Growth Hub found me and took me under their wing, helping and guiding me to so many different sources of information."

Read the full case study [here](#), along with a selection of case studies from different sectors highlighting some of Growth Hub business support provided online [here](#).

Information - Coast to Capital Growth Hub Portal

The Growth Hub Team continue to maintain the [COVID-19 section](#) of the Growth Hub Portal with links to the available support. We continue to collate partner information and place it in our COVID-19 Business Support [area](#) of the Coast to Capital Growth Hub.

A wide range of webinars and online events are available for businesses to access. We regularly update our [event pages](#) on the Growth Hub website to include information from membership organisations, the private sector and business support providers.

We remain keen to work in partnership with business support organisations to deliver a coordinated range of activity during these challenging times.

- If you want to discuss any collaborations please contact [Lou Williams](#) in the first instance.
- If there are any updates, or you want to submit new content, for the portal please contact [Ivy Silverton](#).

Keep up-to-date with the latest Coast to Capital news - [Subscribe online here](#)