



BUSINESS BULLETIN

Produced by Gosport Borough Council

We want to keep you informed with all the latest business related news from Gosport Borough Council. The focus of this Bulletin is understandably COVID-19 related but we are also highlighting other initiatives that support businesses and the economic regeneration of Gosport.

To receive future editions of this Bulletin electronically please subscribe via:
www.gosport.gov.uk/businessbulletin.

COVID-19 information, advice and guidance

To help keep you up-to-date on COVID-19 related matters from both a national and local perspective the Council has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage:
www.gosport.gov.uk/coronavirus.

COVID-19 business support grants

The Council continues to implement the government funded grant schemes with over £3.6m paid to local businesses since last November, on top of the £13m paid earlier in 2020. There are two application windows currently open for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (Addendum) for businesses required by law to close; and the Additional Restrictions Grant, which is aimed at those businesses not eligible for the other grants.


For more details of these schemes and the other grants available during different periods of restrictions see: www.gosport.gov.uk/coronavirus#COVID19businessgrants. You are encouraged to check back regularly on this webpage for updates on grant payments and application windows.

FREE rapid COVID-19 tests now available for eligible critical workers

As part of a national programme to help bring the COVID-19 infection rate down anyone who has to leave their home for work can now be regularly tested for free.

Businesses in Gosport with less than 50 staff can get their employees tested at the new Rapid Community Testing Site at Thorngate Halls that is being run by the Council. It operates on weekdays from 9am to 5pm on an appointment basis only and businesses are encouraged to be flexible to enable their employees to get tested during those times. For more details of the eligibility criteria and the online portal for booking appointments see:
www.gosport.gov.uk/gosportacts.

Businesses with more than 50 staff can run their own workplace testing schemes using lateral flow tests supplied by NHS Test and Trace. For more details and to register for a workplace scheme go to: www.gov.uk and search 'rapid workplace testing'.



Going local to help local businesses

The Council launched a Go Local campaign last month to help support the local economy. With the latest government announcement, we are continuing to support Gosport's traders during lockdown and once tier restrictions are eased. But it doesn't end there. We want Go Local to be the new mind set for individuals and encourage everyone, to think local, act local and buy local, now and in the future.

We're getting ready for when non-essential shops can open with updated campaign artwork, support and guidance. In the meantime, businesses can download the current posters and social ads which encourage the community to Go Online and Go Local from:

www.gosport.gov.uk/golocal.

Are you a local business looking for extra support? Through the Discover Gosport platforms we want to help raise the profile of Gosport's entrepreneurs. So complete the Independent Business questionnaire on: www.gosport.gov.uk/golocal and tell us all about yourself.

High Street Heritage Action Zone

Already hard hit by the changing times, the pandemic has added further blows to our high streets. Thankfully, Gosport is in a great position to boost the town centre with funding awarded as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ). The HSHAZ plans to revitalise Gosport High Street and Stoke Road with over 19 projects, which aim to maximise underused historic buildings, encourage new business, and create new community spaces, cultural activities and housing.

Part of the proposal includes a number of heritage grants which property owners can apply for to help invest in the renovation of historic shop-fronts, and/or to create new uses for internal lower and upper floor space. In addition, the HSHAZ looks to introduce co-workings spaces, a business incubator and training hub providing support services for local commerce, increasing independent business and economic activity and boosting business confidence.

The Gosport High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) is a partnership between Historic England, Gosport Borough Council and the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Find out more at:

www.gosport.gov.uk/hshaz.

Be an ambassador for Gosport

Do you want to be an official ambassador for Gosport and help shape the borough's future? We're looking for local people to sign up as ambassadors to help promote Gosport through their own networks, socially or at work. If you're interested, email us at:

prosperity@gosport.gov.uk or call our economic development team on 023 9254 5425.

Keep up to date with all the business related news and initiatives from the Council via the Business section on: www.gosport.gov.uk or our business facing website Invest in Gosport: www.investingosport.co.uk.

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