



Q&A with **CLLR. JAMES WRIGHT**

**Trafford Council/
Altrincham Business Task Force**



What are you doing to support businesses / community during the lockdown?

The Council is administering the rates relief schemes for businesses and has reallocated resources to process applications and make payments as quickly as possible – to date the Council has paid out c£30m. We recognise that we need more businesses to register with the Council, so we are instigating a targeted campaign to encourage this in partnership with business support organisations, including Altrincham BID.

We have also introduced a 6mth repayment holiday for businesses who have received support from our Town Centres Loan Scheme and Town Centres Marketing Scheme to support the cashflow of those businesses.

We have introduced a 6mth interest free period for loans approved from our Trafford Small Business Loan Fund.

We are producing a daily Business Bulletin to update businesses on available advice and support and extensively using social media to get information out to our businesses. We have ensured our website contains all up to date information to businesses on available support and advice.

We have produced a specific guide on available advice and support available to the retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses to support them through this difficult time.

We are working closely with the GMCA and the other GM local authorities to raise with

government the issues businesses are facing on the ground.

We are working closely with all key business support bodies such as the GM Growth Hub, GM Chamber, Altrincham BID, Sale and Altrincham Chamber, FSB and the town centre partnerships.

How are you supporting businesses with their planning for when it's safe for them to reopen?

There has been no clarity from government as yet on when the lockdown will end and whether a phased approach will be enacted, however we are now working with the GMCA and GM Growth Company to start planning for the recovery and what support will need to be in place to support businesses through this.

The changes to the Council run loan schemes will be reviewed as part of this process.

How can other business owners contact you, if they want to know a bit more about what you've been doing?

I'm very happy to be contacted on email - james.wright@trafford.gov.uk

To register to receive the daily Business Bulletin email: Business@Trafford.gov.uk



CLLR. JAMES WRIGHT
Trafford Council

james.wright@trafford.gov.uk