

City of Wolverhampton Council is highlighting the support and advice on offer to the self-employed during the coronavirus outbreak.

The government has announced a Self-employment Income Support Scheme to help people through this difficult time.

Information on the scheme and how it will be administered by HMRC can be found at bit.ly/SelfEmployedSupport. There is also an FAQs section to refer to at <https://bit.ly/SelfEmployedFAQs>.

Councillor Harman Banger, Cabinet Member for City Economy, said: "I am delighted the government has taken these steps to help protect the self-employed during these difficult times.

"I would urge anyone in Wolverhampton who is self-employed to look at the online guidance and ensure they have everything in order to meet the criteria.

"As a council, we are also continuing to work with regional partners to provide targeted advice and guidance or sign-post businesses to the best source of help."

For all the latest government business support measures visit: <http://bit.ly/2IUD02v>

The council has also outlined where to seek local and regional help.

The council's Business Rates Team is taking the following steps in relation to the recovery of business rates:

- Suspending court action for recovery of business rates after March 19
- Issuing reminder notices to encourage contact from businesses, so that we can understand their individual situation
- Suspending the issue of new cases for enforcement agent action
- Negotiating repayments where possible and/or agree to a hold in recovery action for a period where businesses are struggling

For any businesses/tenants that rent property from the council and wish to discuss their position, please contact the Estates Team, Corporate Landlord, by emailing property.enquiries@wolverhampton.gov.uk and options will be discussed.

The Black Country Growth Hub has information on local business support programmes and business advice: <https://bcgrowthhub.com/coronavirus-covid19>

The Federation of Small Business has information for small independent traders: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/>

Access to Business helps new businesses or if you are in the process of setting up in business: <https://access2business.co.uk>

The Black Country Chamber have online advice and a business helpline (01902 912322): <https://www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk/campaigns-projects/covid19-business-support/>

If you would like to speak to a member of the council's Enterprise Team, please call **Jay Patel (07584 491216)** or **Jeff Marlow (07392 137481)**.

As an alternative you can leave your contact details and a short summary about your business via the email at Business.development@wolverhampton.gov.uk and you will receive a response from the team the same day.

Yours sincerely

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Corporate Communications Team

City of Wolverhampton Council