

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, as well as the UK transition from the EU.

A message from our Chief Executive

The first lockdown had a significant and disproportionate impact on the Coast to Capital area, with our economy tracking a predicted 15% to 17% fall in output as a result. Our economic forecasts predicted a further potential fall in output in the low 20s under a second lockdown scenario. We are still taking stock of the impact and we will continue to gather intelligence from businesses to share with Government.

Our enhanced Growth Hub is expertly positioned to support businesses through this difficult time and with the challenges face by the UK's transition from the EU. Our team of Growth Relationship Managers work with businesses to understand their needs and identify solutions. They can help find funding, facilitate growth strategies and connect clients with partner providers of support.

View the full post ["Economy Watch – the impact of a second lockdown will be hard on our economy"](#).

Support for Business

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.

We are delighted to have recently welcomed two additional Growth Relationship Managers to our Growth Hub team, who will be working closely with high growth potential businesses to help them develop their growth plans and facilitate the provision of expert help.

Fiona Anderson will be acting Growth Relationship Manager in the **East Surrey, Gatwick and Crawley area**, with **Karen Tyrrell** covering the **Arun, Chichester, Horsham and Mid Sussex** area. This is alongside our Growth Relationship Team Leader, **Ryan Davies**, who heads up the **Brighton, Worthing and Adur** area.

Additional One-to-One Support

Eligible businesses can benefit from a free full day of funded support from a Growth Champion to address any barriers to COVID-19 recovery or UK transition from the EU. There is a network of 40 Growth Champions with expertise covering a wide area including Finance, HR, Marketing, Innovation, International Trade, Leadership and Management.

Businesses can contact the Growth Hub team through the online [Growth Hub Contact Form](#). More information [about our Growth Hub Team](#).

UK Transition from the EU - Resources and Events

Post EU Transition - Are you ready? - Friday 20 November, 09:30 - 11:30

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Sussex and Surrey Chambers of Commerce to provide an upcoming webinar '[Post EU Transition - Are you ready?](#)'

Businesses can register online [here](#) for free, to hear from a team of specialists on how to prepare for the new era as we enter 2021.

UK Transition Diagnostic Tool

The UK has left the EU, and the transition period comes to an end this year. Therefore we are advising businesses to take action now to get ready for new rules from January 2021.

Businesses can use the online [Gov.uk](#) UK Transition checker tool [here](#), to receive a personalised list of actions in order to be prepared for the new rules for businesses, which will be in place from 1 January 2021.

More resources and events on the UK transition can be viewed on our Growth Hub Portal [here](#).

Peer Networks Programme – Spaces still available

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, [in partnership with MDHUB](#), 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](#). 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. Please find attached a copy of the promotional materials, which outline the programme criteria, benefits and delivery. As well as a briefing podcast on the programme which can be viewed online [here](#).

Coast to Capital Skills Strategy and Action Plan - Launch Event

Coast to Capital have recently published a Skills Strategy and Action Plan, which includes priorities around supporting businesses understand their current and future skills and workforce needs, and to build engagement with their existing workforce to ensure the business has the skills it needs to recover, build resilience and grow.

We are delighted to invite you to join us for the virtual launch of the newly published Skills Strategy and Action Plan on **Thursday 3 December, 2:00pm – 3:30pm**.

The event will provide an opportunity to hear from our Chair Julie Kapsalis, and Skills 360 Board Chair Frances Rutter, as well as chance to learn more about the Skills Strategy and Action Plan, including the priorities for the Skills 360 Board and proposed short and long term activities.

The full event details and registration can be found online [here](#).

A short survey has also been circulated to our business contacts, to help us understand if and how businesses are currently approaching workforce development and training during these uncertain times.

Information - Coast to Capital Growth Hub Portal

The Growth Hub Team continue to maintain the [COVID-19](#) and [UK Transition](#) section of the Growth Hub Portal with links to 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](#).

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