



**Rochford District
Council**

**Councillor Simon Wootton
Representing Roche North and Rural Ward
Portfolio Holder for Enterprise
Email: cllrsimon.wootton@rochford.gov.uk**

25th March 2020

Dear Rochford District Businesses,

Coronavirus: Covid-19

During these unprecedented times I just wanted to make contact with you to reassure you as a Local Authority that we are doing everything we can, within our powers, to assist you during these extremely difficult times.

Whether you are a small, medium, large or self-employed enterprise, I can appreciate that you have all been impacted in some way. To ensure you are kept informed as this pandemic continues, the council have set up a dedicated Coronavirus: Covid-19 section on our website and a specific section with 'guidance for businesses', which includes the rate relief schemes and loan facilities that have been launched this week. Please use this link to access it here: <https://www.rochford.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/latest-information-businesses>

In addition, on a daily basis currently, the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Mike Steptoe and MD, Shaun Scrutton, are issuing statements via our website and the Tell Me More e-bulletin service, to keep residents and the business community up-to-date with the very latest developments, as soon as they happen.

Please access this FREE service by signing up online here: www.rochford.gov.uk/tellmemore you then need to select 'business' as one of your topics to receive business news and of course you can select any other subject that is of interest to you.

If you need any assistance with business support and signposting to appropriate services, please contact the Economic Regeneration team at: business@rochford.gov.uk and they will get back to you as soon as they are able. For any enquiry relating to business rates you can contact that team at: Business.Rates@Rochford.gov.uk They will however contact all qualifying businesses directly as soon as they can.

The council are working through the recently published guidance on the processes for awarding business rate reliefs and grants, with the intention these will be rolled out as quickly as possible in April.

Lastly, I just wanted to draw your attention to a new government-led campaign for businesses that launched on Monday 23 March, which I hope is useful to your business in response to

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Coronavirus and helps you navigate the vast amount of information out there that your business may wish to access:- <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/>

In the meantime, stay safe, stay indoors where you're able, practise social distancing and look out for one another to get through this crisis as soon as we can whilst minimising the amount of people that become infected with this virus.

May I take this opportunity to wish you well through these particularly difficult and challenging times.

I hope you find the above information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Simon Wootton
Portfolio Holder for Enterprise