CORONAVIRUS
BUSINESS SUPPORT

COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND

Sheffield City Region
GROWTH HUB

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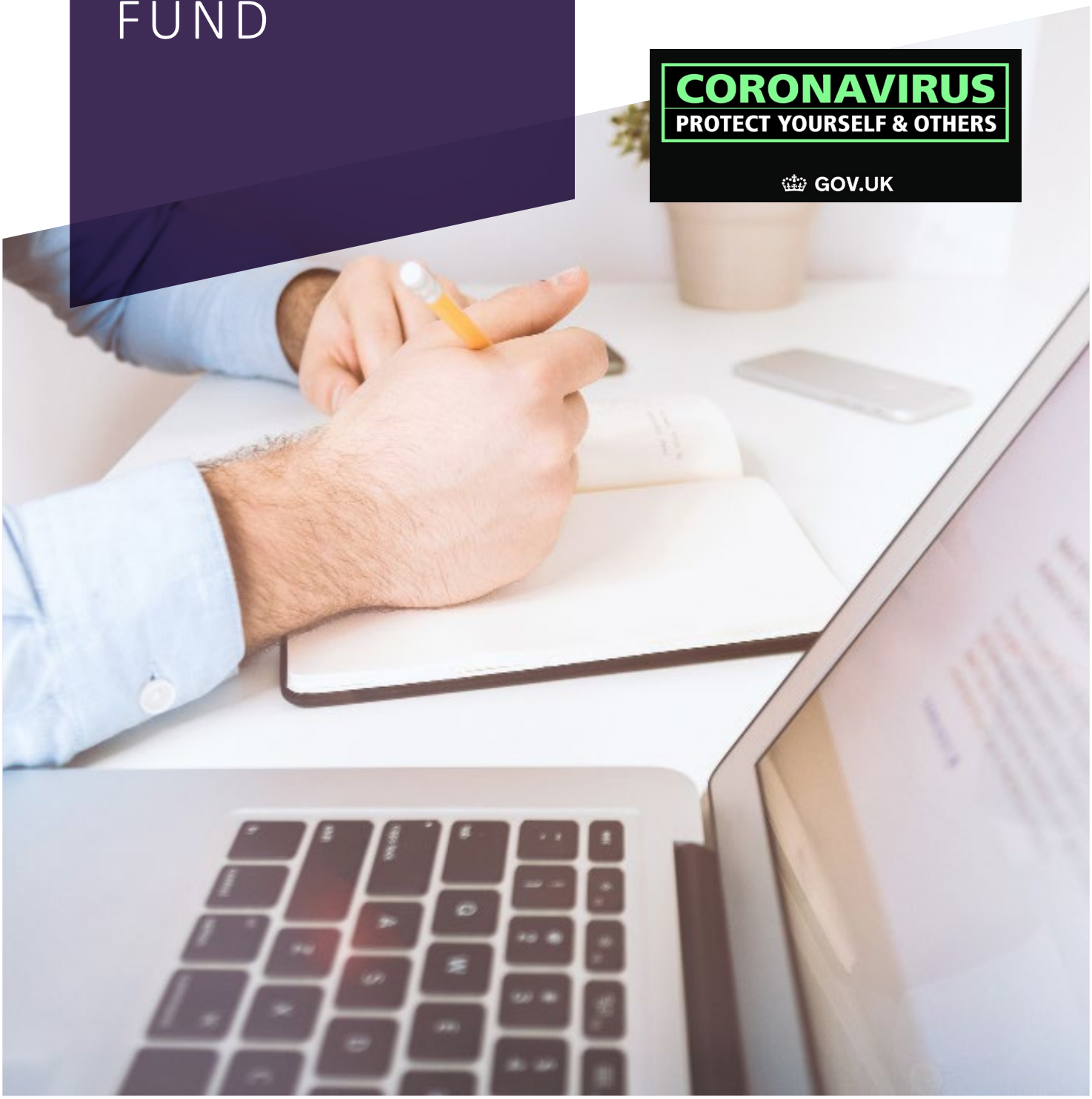

GATEWAY TO SUPPORT

The Sheffield City Region (SCR) Growth Hub exists to help businesses access the best possible business support. And in these unprecedented times, we are working hard to respond to and support South Yorkshire's businesses during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Growth Hub is open and here to help.

The Growth Hub acts as a 'gateway' so that your business can access support when you need it the most and within the shortest timeframe. Our team of specialists offer guidance in the fields of business development and industry support, including innovation, trade and exporting, accessing finance or training.

The Government has announced a number of schemes to help businesses during this challenging time. The Gateway team can provide more detail on each of the schemes and what they mean for you.

We are providing a series of business support updates as they arise and are working with our SCR Response Group and the Local Resilience Forum.

We are doing everything we can to protect our economy, and support jobs and businesses across South Yorkshire during this difficult time.

Please get in touch with us directly by email: growthhub@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk or visit www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk/covid-19-support-for-businesses/ for updates and further help and support.

Follow us on social media:

www.linkedin.com/company/10393879

www.twitter.com/SCRGrowthHub

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COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND

This briefing provides in depth information on the Government's £500m Hardship Fund for vulnerable people, including details of the scheme, eligibility criteria for businesses and the application process.

The scheme is part of the UK Government's response to the Coronavirus crisis.

COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND

COUNCIL TAX RELIEF

The £500m Hardship Fund provides council tax relief to vulnerable people and households to help those affected most by Coronavirus.

- The Hardship Fund is available from local authorities in England and it enables them to reduce the 2020/21 Council Tax Bills of working age people (16 to 64-year olds).
- The majority of the fund will be used to provide additional council tax relief to those already receiving Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) or to support Local Welfare Schemes. Those receiving LCTS will receive a reduction of £150 on their 2020/21 Council Tax Bill.
- Local authorities can also use the Hardship Fund to support other council taxpayers experiencing hardship such as self-employed individuals and those on zero-hours contracts. It is at the discretion of each local authority how the Hardship Fund is administered in their area.
- Currently, the four local authorities in South Yorkshire are allowing council taxpayers to apply for help with their Council Tax bills through their Council Tax Support schemes. Barnsley and Doncaster councils are also offering the option for individuals to delay their Council Tax payments for three months.

FREQUENTLY UPDATED INFORMATION: WWW.SCRGROWTHHUB.CO.UK/COVID-19-SUPPORT-FOR-BUSINESSES/

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Individuals who are Council Taxpayers and who are already in receipt of Local Council Tax Support. Whether or not they have been affected by COVID-19, directly or indirectly, they will be eligible for a further reduction on their Council Tax bill.
- Individuals who are Council Taxpayers, and whose income has significantly dropped and will struggle to pay their Council Tax bill can apply for Council Tax support.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Local authorities will automatically contact all individuals of working age (16 to 64 years old) who currently receive local Council Tax support with a revised bill.
- Other Council Taxpayers who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19, including self-employed individuals and those employed on a contracted basis such as zero-hours, should contact their local authority to seek Council Tax support.
- Alternatively, applications for Council Tax Support can be made at www.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-reduction

FAQ

DOES THIS AFFECT OTHER BENEFITS?
-

It is the Government's intention that any assistance provided from the council tax hardship fund will not affect the eligibility of recipients for other benefits.

Find out more www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-tax-covid-19-hardship-fund-2020-to-2021-guidance

Barnsley Council https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/advice-benefits-and-council-tax/council-tax/council-tax-support/apply-for-council-tax-support/

Doncaster Council - https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/council-tax-benefits/council-tax

Rotherham Council - https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/emergencies-1/coronovirus/3

Sheffield Council - https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-support-for-people#money

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Email the gateway team at **growthhub@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk** for all your enquiries.
www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk/covid-19-support-for-businesses/
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Sheffield City Region Growth Hub, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S1 2BQ

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