

Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group

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Dear Chief Executive,

HELPING BUSINESS PREPARE – COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

On behalf of the Chamber and our Board, I wanted to write to you directly and thank you, and the whole local authority, for 'stepping-up' to help businesses during these unprecedented times. Once again, the local authorities are providing leadership and mobilising their considerable expertise and resources to support the resident and business community. We thank you.

As a business organisation the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) have, through the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and their team, unprecedented and ongoing access to Downing Street, with senior Cabinet Ministers, the UK Government, the Governor of the Bank of England and financial institutions to ensure we get practical support to businesses – fast. We are in the room, at the top table, and we are making it clear that businesses and their employees need immediate support and understand the need to get cash to the front line to keep our businesses, communities and economy going.

We have been calling on Government to provide the kind of help and support to the business community they announced late last week, and we are encouraged by the level of detail flowing since. Every Thames Valley business – no matter its size, sector, age, district or town – is currently facing unprecedented challenges. Our priority is to ensure that businesses in the Thames Valley get clear, actionable information at speed in order to take critical decisions and that Government act on the pressing, real world needs of our business communities. That's why TVCC, alongside our network partners in the BCC, are working tirelessly to help businesses on the front line – your business community - as the 'first responders' on the ground.

As the details flow in regard the local authorities' role in helping business, we are here to help. Below are the ways we can do this and what we can do to support the local authorities:

- To help businesses, we have set up a central resource page: <https://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/covid-19-business-guidance/> which is updated daily.
- Our twitter platform - @TVValleyChamber – is monitored and updated throughout the day and we invite the local authorities to monitor and retweet appropriate information to support their own messaging.
- The TVCC has a membership and trade customer base of around 5,000 businesses across the Thames Valley.

- Within our membership we have several large companies whose respective supply chains and networks are significant. They have all expressed support and offered this in ensuring the key messages from Government are getting to the right place.
- We actively account management a significant number of companies. This means we have direct channels of communication to decision makers within these businesses.

As you get more information and clarity, we are here to help. We are here to support you and your local authority. Please do accept this notification as an open invitation.

The Chambers are in business for business and we will be there every step of the way as we navigate the days and weeks ahead. Count on us, and in collaboration with your local authority, on each other. Together we can bring our businesses and communities together and lead the fight for the future.

With very best wishes always,



Paul Britton
CEO, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce