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## COVID-19: SUPPORT FOR TOWNS & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

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This document signposts to key sources of support and advice relevant to towns, city-districts and communities in order to help the custodians of Scotland's places respond to the impact of coronavirus.

This briefing will be updated as new announcements are made, and you can email any resources which have been missed to [ewan@scotlandstowns.org](mailto:ewan@scotlandstowns.org). Updates will be posted on the [Scotland's Towns Partnership](#) and [Scotland's Improvement Districts](#) websites. We continue to support our towns and city districts through this time, and so please get in touch with any queries that we may be able to help with.

### **Central Information Portals**

- [UK Government – Coronavirus Response](#). [includes section on 'businesses and other organisations']
- [UK Government – Guidance for Employees, Employers and Businesses](#).
- [Scottish Government – Coronavirus Response](#).

### **Businesses in Scotland**

- [Coronavirus Advice for Businesses in Scotland](#). (Scottish Gvt Find Business Support directory)
- [Covid-19 Scottish Business Support Summary](#) (matrix listing of all available funding)
- [Business Gateway - Guidance for Business Owners in Scotland on Coronavirus](#).
- [Federation of Small Businesses: Coronavirus Support Hub](#)
- [SCDI Directory of Business Support](#) [newly added]
  - > [£2k-£50k 'Bounce Back Loans'](#)
  - > [£10k & £25k Business Support Grants](#) (see link below for info & to apply)
  - > [Local Authorities - Coronavirus Grants](#) (full info on eligibility and applying for business grants)
  - > [£20 million Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund](#)
  - > [£45 million Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund](#)
  - > [£34 million Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund](#)
  - > [£250m Future Fund](#) (for innovative companies with strong growth potential) [new]
  - > [Information on Eligibility and Access to Non-Domestic Rates Relief and Grants](#).
  - > ***Business Gateway Advice Portal***: free virtual and local support is available [here](#).
  - > ***Scottish Government Business Helpline***: businesses can contact **0300 303 0660** for more information Monday – Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm. Select Option 1 to speak to the COVID – 19 team.

### **Improvement Districts**

- [COVID-19 BID Resilience Fund: Application, Guidance and Support](#)
- [Responding to COVID-19: Webinar and Presentation Slides](#)
- [Support and Guidance for the Tourism & Events Industries](#) (VisitScotland) [updated]
- [Tourism Destination and Sector Support Fund](#) (VisitScotland)
- [Smarter Choices, Smarter Places](#) (Paths for All – Improvement Districts are eligible)

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## **Third Sector, Social Enterprise & Community**

### **Key Funds**

- [Scottish Government: £350 Communities Funding for Coronavirus Resilience](#)
- [£20m Third Sector Resilience Fund](#)
- [£50m Third Sector Wellbeing Fund](#)
- [Creative Scotland COVID-19 Impact Funds](#)
- [Charities Aid Foundation: Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)
- [MGS Urgent Response Fund](#) (small arts, culture and heritage organisations)
- [NLF Heritage Emergency Fund](#) (grants between £3,000 and £250,000) [new round open]
- [Tesco Bags of Help Covid-19 Communities Fund](#)
- [Foundation Scotland, Response, Recovery & Resilience Fund](#)
- [Standard Life Foundation Coronavirus Fund](#)
- [Youth Scotland Action Fund](#)
- [Alpkit Foundation – Grassroots Support Now](#)
- [Yorkshire Building Society – Coronavirus Response Fund](#)
- [The Fore RAFT Fund](#)

### **Information and Directories to Funds by Sector**

- [SCVO: Third-Sector Information Hub](#)
- [Support for Cultural Heritage and Built Environment Organisations \(BEFS\)](#)
- [Support for Social Enterprises \(SES\)](#)
- [Support for Communities \(CDAS\)](#)
- [Support for the Creative Sector \(Creative Edinburgh\)](#)
- [Support for Tourism and Events Industries \(VisitScotland\)](#)

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