

29th June 2020

# Briefing Note

CECA Scotland Member Briefing:

## COVID-19 - CECA SCOTLAND UPDATE

### Introduction

CECA Scotland will be producing regular updates to keep member companies updated on new developments relating to the Covid-19 coronavirus and its impact on the Scottish civils sector. This briefing will be delivered daily and posted on our website. If you would like further information or to share your experiences about how COVID-19 is impacting on your business, contact our Chief Executive, Grahame Barn: 07976 199615 or [grahame@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk).

### Updated Phase 2 Guidance: Business and Physical Distancing

The Scottish Government have today updated their Phase 2 Business and Physical Distancing Guidance. It confirms that **remote working should remain the default position for those who can**. Where that is not possible, businesses and organisations are encouraged to manage travel demand through staggered start times and flexible working patterns.

You can read the updated guidance in full [here](#). This should be read alongside updated guidance on [Staying Safe and Protecting Others](#), which can be read [here](#).

### Flexible Furlough: What does it mean for your business

With the implementation date of the new flexible furlough scheme on 1 July, CECA Scotland auditors, Johnson Carmichael, have recorded a webinar to help businesses navigate these extremely complex changes. Their advice is to start reviewing your staffing plans now, to allow enough time to prepare. You can access a recording of the webinar [here](#).

Johnson Carmichael have produced a helpful Weekly Update (published 26<sup>th</sup> June). Read [here](#).

### Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK Fiscal Path - A New Approach

The Scottish Government have today (29<sup>th</sup> June) [published a paper](#) setting out ten principles they believe the UK Government should follow to support the UK economy and public finances as we begin to recover from the impacts of coronavirus. The ten principles for delivering a further fiscal stimulus that grows the economy, reduces inequality, and effectively manages debt are:

### Public finances

1. Avoid a return to the austerity of the past and adopt flexible fiscal rules. Growing the economy and reducing inequality should take priority over deficit reduction until the economy has fully recovered.
2. Introduce a fiscal stimulus package worth £80 billion, or 4% of UK GDP, to deliver an investment-led recovery, accelerate the transition to net zero and build an economy which has the broader wellbeing of the population at its heart.
3. Cut the standard rate of VAT to 15% for six months once current restrictions have been lifted across the UK. Reduce VAT for the hospitality sector to 5%.
4. Accelerate major investment in low-carbon, energy efficiency and digital infrastructure and recognise the value of this investment by assessing the government's fiscal sustainability in terms of its public sector net worth.
5. Enable Scotland to shape its own response to the pandemic by providing further consequential for investment into the Scottish economy and by extending Scotland's fiscal flexibilities.

You can read the paper in full [here](#).

### Blueprint for Recovery

This paper is part of the Scottish Government's "Blueprint for Recovery", launched today by Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP. Read more [here](#).

## COVID-19: Designing Safer Public Spaces for Scotland

New [guidance](#) has been published today on designing safer public spaces for Scotland in light of COVID-19. This focuses on design principles for safer urban centres and green spaces in Scotland during the coronavirus crisis. It contains information and examples of interventions that may be undertaken by owners and operators of public spaces to keep people safe, as restrictions relax.

You can download it in full [here](#).

### Support the labour market and improve the welfare safety net

6. Choose to use public money to protect jobs and livelihoods through support schemes and increase the responsiveness, accessibility, generosity of the UK welfare safety net, so that it provides sufficient support for people in and out of work.
7. Introduce a jobs guarantee scheme for young people, increase training, and continue sector-specific employment and business support schemes where needed.
8. Create jobs through a significant reduction in firms' labour costs by cutting employers' National Insurance Contributions and removing the costs of the apprenticeship levy.

### Dealing with debt

9. Agree a national debt plan to support businesses, households and the banking system through the economic recovery and manage debt recovery over a longer time period.
10. Reset the monetary policy objective of the Bank of England so that long-term growth and reducing inequality are promoted.

For more information please contact Grahame Barn on [grahame@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk)

### Public and Customer Toilets: COVID-19 Guidance

New guidance was published on 27<sup>th</sup> June on the opening of public and customer toilets. Read [here](#).

### Colleges and Universities: New COVID-19 Guidance Published Today

New guidance has been published today for both colleges and universities, aimed at helping to minimise transmission of COVID-19.

Read the guidance for Colleges [here](#) and Universities [here](#).

#### CICV Forum: Guidance for a Safe Return to College

The CICV Forum has produced a PowerPoint aimed at staff and apprentices returning to college or university, which you can view [here](#) or download from the CICV Forum [website](#)

### High Street Shops Reopen

High street shops in Scotland, with street access reopened today under phase two of the Scottish Government's route map out of lockdown. Read more [here](#).

You can access the Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 Construction Sector guidance [here](#).

Access Phase 2: business and physical distancing guidance [here](#).

Read Returning to Work Safely guidance [here](#)

For more information please contact Grahame Barn on [grahame@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk)