



Cost of Living - Support for Businesses

As well as residents juggling the rising costs of essentials such as heating and food, so too are businesses.

Sefton Council's Business Support Team, InvestSefton, are speaking to businesses to identify key issues impacting on them and, where possible, offering support or signposting to wider support available across the Liverpool City Region.

Call 0151 934 3452 for an informal chat about how we can help you. This support is FREE and impartial. Alternatively email investsefton@sefton.gov.uk and a member of the team will contact you.

InvestSefton can help you replan your business. This support includes reviewing your costs, prices and processes, exploring new markets, increasing your sales, understanding and using FREE digital marketing tools as well as providing a listening ear during this difficult time.

Hints, Tips and Practical Steps for Businesses

- If possible, standardise working hours ensuring energy use is contained within a certain timeframe
- Ensure equipment is turned off when not in use
- Install energy-efficient lighting
- Add smart meters to monitor consumption
- Enquire about free carbon assessment
- An energy relief scheme for non-domestic customers. Further details about this scheme is available on the Government's website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-bill-relief-scheme-help-for-businesses-and-other-non-domestic-customers>

Control costs

- Assess all costs – by completing a thorough review of all costs, you could identify those that could be cut or identify a cheaper alternative.
- Source locally to save on import costs and support other local businesses

Support your team

- Provide employees with the option to work flexibly
- Develop and retain staff through funded training courses
- Sign up to corporate staff discount schemes with the benefits passed on to your staff with savings in supermarkets or meals out
- Provide staff with tea, coffee, milk or food items for them to use whilst at work
- Signpost available support to your employees with our factsheet: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/cost-of-living/factsheet/>



Business Rates

All business rates properties are to be revalued with effect from 1 April 2023. You can find the current valuation, and the valuation that will apply from 1 April 2023 at <https://www.gov.uk/find-business-rates>

Following the Budget Statement on 17 November 2022 the following measures were announced:

- Freezing the business rates multiplier for another year
- An extended and increased relief for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses from 50% to 75% from 1 April 2023
- Reforming Transitional Relief by abolishing downward transitional relief caps
- Businesses facing an increase in their bills as a result of revaluation will have those increases capped at 5% for businesses with a rateable value of £20k or less rising to a cap of a 30% increase for businesses with a rateable value of £100k or greater
- The introduction of a Supporting Small Business scheme

This package of measures is expected to limit increases in rates bills to 1% overall, although the actual impact will be different for individual businesses.

Full details of the schemes are yet to be released. Details will be published on our web pages at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/business/business-rates> as they become available.

Guidance and Advice

The Highways & Public Protection Service provide advice, guidance and assistance to businesses to help achieve cost-effective compliance; support legal business development and prevent unnecessary expense. They seek to maintain a level playing field by preventing non-compliant businesses from gaining unfair advantage. Advice you can access includes:

- Food Safety
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/business/food-hygiene-advice-for-businesses/>
- Licensing
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/business/licensing-registration>
- Trading Standards
<https://sefton.tradingstandards.uk/>
- Pavement Licences
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/parking-roads-travel/pavement-licence/>
- Environmental Permits to regulate industrial Processes
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/business/licensing-registration/environmental-permits/>

For enquiries email:

Public Protection(Food Safety, Licensing, Trading Standards & Environmental Permits)
ETSContact@sefton.gov.uk

Highways (Pavement Licences)
network@sefton.gov.uk

