



## Business Bulletin 6th August

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### New BID Manager Introduction

I would like to introduce myself to the Elgin BID members that I haven't had the chance to meet yet, I am very much looking forward to working with you all and keeping the spirit going in Elgin during this challenging time.

Elgin went into this situation in a much stronger position than most towns and cities I believe we will come out the other side positively and together.

In the coming weeks I will try to meet or touch base with as many of you as I can but please do not wait for me to come to you if you want to have a chat. We are following government guidelines at the moment so if you do want to catch up please drop me an email or give me a call so we can arrange a time for me to come and see you or for you to come to the office safely. My email address is [gemma.cruickshank@elginbid.co.uk](mailto:gemma.cruickshank@elginbid.co.uk) and phone number is 01343 550652.

In the meantime, I am getting my feet under the table but I am really excited about this opportunity to continue to add to the success of Elgin.

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## BID Levy 25% Discount

Earlier this year, we notified you that we had instructed the Moray Council to delay sending out the April BID levy invoices because of the Covid-19 situation.

Like all businesses we have been affected by Covid, but we wanted to do everything we could to support the BID members during this tough trading period.

The BID Board therefore agreed to provide every BID member who requests it, with a 25% reduction on their annual levy.

We have worked with the Taxation Team at the Moray Council to arrange the most streamlined process that we can within the constraints of their invoicing system.

It is essential that you follow this process if you want to access the reduction.

### Process

Complete the Registration Form – link attached. This is **essential if you wish to take the 25% reduction** in your annual levy contribution

[Download the form here \(Word\)](#)

[Download the form here \(PDF\)](#)

The form must be completed and returned to Tina at [tina.mainland@elginbid.co.uk](mailto:tina.mainland@elginbid.co.uk)

- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Upon receipt of your Registration form the BID team will contact you with a Unique Identification Number and they will advise you how much you should pay.

At the end of September, a BID Levy invoice will be issued for 100% of your Annual levy contribution, this is due to the Moray Council's invoicing systems which prevents them making individual alterations.

We will liaise with the Moray Council notifying them who will be paying 75%, this information will be taken from the Registration Form attached, they will not pursue the unpaid 25% reduction for any BID business who has a Unique ID from the BID team.

**The 25% discount will only be applied to businesses who complete and return the form.**

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## **Covid-19 Stay Vigilant**

As businesses begin to open back up, more and more people are comfortable going out and socialising, this is a key time to continue to stick to the measures you have put in place to keep everyone and your business safe.

With the announcement on Aberdeen's lockdown yesterday, it shows that Covid-19 is still very much out there and how easily it is to spread and cause a lockdown which we really want to avoid in Elgin. Everyone has put in an enormous amount of effort to be able to open again and it would be heart-breaking for Elgin to have to suffer the same situation as Aberdeen.

Can I suggest that you take this as a time to review your own procedures and make sure you, your employees and your customers are as safe as possible and to follow the government guidelines where possible. If anyone would like advice or to discuss anything that they are unsure of then please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can either have a telephone call or arrange a meeting.

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## **Pandemic-hit businesses invited to share experiences and views**

Moray Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are holding a series of webinars for businesses across Moray to share their views on the impacts of COVID-19 and what the challenges will be going forward.

These webinars will inform the recovery strategy and action plan currently being developed by the Moray Economic Partnership to guide the economy back to

health.

If you are a business operating in a town centre and would like the opportunity to tell us your views on this we would like you to join us for a round table discussion on the 11<sup>th</sup> August at 3.30pm.

[Register here](#)

The discussion will be hosted on Microsoft teams with the event link sent out nearer to the event.

If you cannot make this meeting other dates are available through local business organisations and Moray Council. The links for these can be found below:

Moray Chamber of Commerce 12th August at 3pm: <http://www.moraychamber.co.uk/events>

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## **Test & Protect App**

The Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP), working with a local developer, have developed a web based service for businesses to securely check-in their customers and collect data in line with government guidelines to support the Scottish Government Test & Protect Programme.

The service has been running in the CBP area for some weeks and is in use by 50 businesses so far. Thousands of people have used the technology to 'check-in'

Visit Moray Speyside, in partnership with Moray Chamber of Commerce, have taken the decision to deploy the Test / Protect platform here in Moray Speyside so that visitors, local residents and local businesses can accurately and quickly capture the data required by Scottish Government.

The cost of development and ongoing hosting / support for one year will be met by Visit Moray Speyside and Moray Chamber of Commerce. Cairngorm Business Partnership charge non-member businesses £20 to be on the

platform, but we will offer the technology FREE to every business in Moray.

[Find out more here](#)

If you are interested please contact Laurie at Visit Moray Speyside  
on- [laurie@morayspeyside.com](mailto:laurie@morayspeyside.com)

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### **Click & Collect Hub**

Back in June we asked if businesses would be interested in a shared Click and Collect Hub. Only a few businesses were interested initially so we put the project on hold for the time being. Now you have had more time to get established we are asking again if you would be interested.

Businesses could sell their products on line or over the phone, they then drop their items off each morning and apart from supplying some occasional staffing resource, everything else would be in place, lockable cabinets, chillers etc. This would help circulate customers around the City and help free up space in your business, with Social Distancing that could be invaluable.

If you think this could be of use to your business please contact Tina by 14th August.

Please highlight this to other businesses located across the City Centre, the more people involved the less staffing resource would be required and the more customers you could deal with.

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**Take Care and Stay Safe  
Gemma & Tina**