

Business Board Programme of Support

A dedicated six-month Thomas Cook Task Force Advice Service, consisting of four full time employee and business advisors, supported by further business advisors from the Combined Authority Growth Hub, Peterborough City College, Peterborough Regional College and the National Careers Service, providing advice and access to funding as follows:

- 1. Advice and guidance for the redundant employees relating to re-employment**
 - a. Provided in partnership and coordinated with additional advisors from Peterborough City College, Peterborough Regional College and the National Careers Service, relating to Adult Education opportunities, funded by the Combined Authority and other employers through transfer of the Apprenticeship Levy, in regard to:
 - b. Providing skills' audits and training needs analysis to develop a re-employment pathway with an action plan and follow-on progress tracking and support.
 - c. Accessing business community information, external to the Job Centres, on current vacancies within Peterborough, looking at a range of in-demand employment sectors.
 - d. Training on job Search, CV writing, interview training and employability
 - e. Training and guidance on the financial aspects of redundancy, including counselling on the emotional and resilience aspects of redundancy
 - f. Training for new career pathways relating to level 2 to 6 qualifications in digital, customer service, retail, business admin, business management, teaching, health and social care and counselling.
 - g. Connecting employees with the Health and Care Sector Work Academy and the Edge Construction Skills Centre, for re-training into those sectors.
 - h. Connecting employees with the SERCO delivered local project providing Redundancy Workshops and ACAS for employee and employer redundancy support.

2. Advice and funding for redundant employees to help them start their own business:

- a. Connecting to the Business Board's Growth Hub Advisors, supported by a volunteer pool of independent business advisors, the Growth Hub Expert in Residence from Natwest/RBS, and the Santander Breakthrough Programme, for guidance on business start-ups.
- b. Accessing up to £3m of start-up capital grants from the Business Board, of between £2k and £250k at between 80% and 50% grant support rates.

3. Advice and funding for businesses effected in the supply chain:

- a. Connecting to the Business Board's Growth Hub Advisors, supported by a volunteer pool of independent business advisors, the Growth Hub Expert in Residence from Natwest/RBS, and the Santander Breakthrough Programme, for guidance on diversifying and re-growing their revenue lines.
- b. Accessing business growth capital grants from the Business Board, of between £10k and £1m at 50% grant support rates to re-grow and diversify their revenue lines.

4. Advice and guidance for other businesses to take on redundant employees

- a. Specifically, the 111 employers that have come forward so far, offering staff their vacancies, relating to the Adult Education Budget and Apprenticeship Levy transfer funding available for the re-training of employees, taken on from Thomas Cook.