Rebuild

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUILDING BACK STRONGER

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JUNE 2021

British Chambers of Commerce

About the British Chambers of Commerce

The British Chambers of Commerce represents and campaigns for business.

Our roots are local, but our reach is global.

We're owned by, and work for, a network of Chambers of Commerce that champion and support our members all across the UK and in countries and markets around the world.

Our unique perspective gives us unparalleled insight into British and global business communities – every sector, every size, everywhere.

They trust us to be their advocates, and we're passionate about helping them trade and grow.

Working together with Chambers, we drive change from the ground up – and our bottom line is helping companies, places and people achieve their potential.

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INTRODUCTION FROM SHEVAUN HAVILAND, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

SHEVAUN HAVILAND
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Just as the government supported firms to survive through the crisis, they must also act now to enable them to thrive in the recovery.

As our economic research and analysis shows, the UK economy has suffered an enormous shock since March 2020. While the figures speak for themselves, they cannot convey the cold, hard reality of life as a business owner over the past 18 months. While some businesses have been able to innovate and find a way through these difficult times, others have found themselves eating away at cash reserves just to keep their heads above water.

As we emerge from 15 months of restrictions which have seen huge swathes of business communities closed entirely, or operating with restricted capacity and depleted demand, positive action is needed to enable businesses of all sectors, shapes and sizes to accelerate their recovery and return the UK to growth and prosperity.

Accredited Chambers of Commerce have been the 'first responders' to their business communities throughout the pandemic and have a deep understanding of what will make a difference to firms on the ground as they begin to rebuild their businesses. The recommendations within this report have been developed by the Chamber Network, based on our extensive research programme and direct insight into the impact of the Coronavirus crisis on businesses up and down the country.

Recovery from the pandemic is not the only challenge that businesses face: skills shortages, rising costs, and the climate challenge were all issues top of mind for business before the crisis hit. In rebuilding our economy, we must take the opportunity to not only recover from the damage caused by the pandemic, but to also begin to tackle these long-standing issues which have remained unresolved for too long.

Our SMEs will be the powerhouse of our recovery. Without intervention, there is a risk of a two-speed recovery, where the UK's SME community lag behind those larger businesses with the cash reserves and investment needed to recover.

Business communities still have choppy water ahead. The Accredited Chamber Network will do all it can to guide our businesses through whatever lies ahead. We hope that both the UK government and governments across the devolved nations harness the 'can do' spirit that has saved jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic – and seen the successful roll-out of the Coronavirus vaccine. We ask decision-makers across the nations to take the active steps this year set out in this report, which will create the conditions needed for firms to be able to rebuild and power the recovery.

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SECTION 1
LATEST ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The speed and scale at which Coronavirus has hit the UK economy and economies around the world is unprecedented. Historically, previous economic downturns have typically been driven by a private sector reaction to economic shocks. However, the main driver of the impending recession is a global pandemic, which has pushed UK governments, and governments around the world, to lockdown their economies to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

Despite recent improvements, official data confirms that UK economic output remains well below the pre-pandemic levels. Businesses have been through an incredibly difficult period, particularly in sectors such as leisure and hospitality which have been, essentially, closed by law. In general, within each sector, smaller businesses have fared worse than larger ones (as with Brexit).

However, we are starting to see the return of some business confidence, linked to the vaccine rollout and the reopening of the economy. Assuming there is no resurgence of the virus which forces governments to impose further restrictions on businesses and communities, the first quarter decline in UK economic output should be followed by a robust rebound in economic activity in the second quarter, as the effects of the release of pent-up demand as restrictions ease and the strong vaccine rollout are felt. While the short-term outlook for the UK economy is robust, now is not the time for complacency. This rebound is likely to fade as the economic scarring caused by the pandemic starts to crystalise with the winding-down of government support. The recovery is also likely to be dramatically uneven across different sectors, locations and groups of people.

The extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will mean that the peak in job losses is lower than in recent recessions. Unemployment remains on course to peak towards the end of 2021, once the furlough scheme expires and those who stopped job-hunting during the pandemic look to return to the workforce as restrictions ease. Although the furlough scheme will limit the peak in job losses, the uneven economic damage caused by Coronavirus may drive a two-track jobs market recovery, with skills shortages in sectors where activity rebounds quickly, but with young people now entering the workforce and those whose lost their job during the pandemic at particular risk of longer-term unemployment.

With many firms struggling with the damage done to their cashflow and revenue by over a year of Coronavirus restrictions, the risk of a marked rise in insolvencies as government support winds down remains uncomfortably high.

With many firms struggling with the damage done to their cashflow and revenue by over a year of Coronavirus restrictions, the risk of a marked rise in insolvencies as government support winds down remains uncomfortably high. Without additional support, the rebound will only be short-lived.

The economic scarring caused by Coronavirus, including elevated private sector debt levels, high structural unemployment and weak investment, may mean that the recovery is slower than many, including the Bank of England, currently predict. It may also mean that the recovery is dramatically uneven across different sectors, locations and cohorts of people.

LATEST ECONOMIC ANALYSIS CONTINUED...

SECTORAL DAMAGE

Since March 2020, the British Chambers of Commerce has collected a huge volume of data and case studies illustrating the enormous sectoral damage inflicted by the Coronavirus crisis.

In Q2 2020, the first quarter after the crisis began, key indicators from the BCC's Quarterly Economic Survey – a major independent business survey, established in 1989 – saw the largest and sharpest declines on record. For instance, 73% of businesses overall reported decreased domestic sales, 72% reported decreased export sales, and 64% reported decreased cash flow.

However, the picture has been even worse in consumer-facing industries such as the hospitality and catering sector. 94% of these firms reported decreased domestic sales and decreased cash flow. The collapse in revenue has meant that these firms are among the least able to retain and recruit staff and are amongst the most reliant on government support for survival.

These firms have also been least likely to show signs of recovery in subsequent quarters. In the most recent data for Q1 2021, for example, 81% of hospitality and catering firms reported decreased cash flow, compared to 41% overall.

SMALLER FIRMS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED

As well as consumer-facing industries bearing the brunt of the crisis, smaller firms have also been disproportionately affected. For instance, businesses with fewer than 50 employees have been consistently more likely to report worsening cash flow. In Q2 2020, the BCC's QES found that while 57% of medium and large firms reported decreased cash flow, this figure rose to 65% for small and micro firms.

IN Q2, 2020...

73%

of businesses overall reported decreased domestic sales

72%

reported decreased export sales

64%

reported decreased cash flow

LATEST ECONOMIC ANALYSIS CONTINUED...

CONCERNS OVER INFLATION

The latest QES data have shown a stark increase in the proportion of firms expecting prices to rise in the coming months. In Q1 2021, 38% of respondents overall said they expect prices to rise in the next quarter, while only 5% expect prices to decrease. The balance of manufacturers expecting their prices to increase rose to its highest level since Q4 2017, with the vast majority citing raw material costs as a price pressure.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Throughout the crisis, BCC data have shown historic declines in attempted recruitment. QES data show that the average percentage of firms attempting to recruit each quarter between 2018-19 stood at 57%. In Q2 2020, this fell to a record low of 25% and subsequently has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

However, since the announcement of the roadmap, employment growth expectations have risen for certain sectors. For instance, in Q1 2021, 54% of construction firms and 50% of manufacturing firms attempted to recruit in the quarter, compared to just 20% of hospitality and catering firms.

These figures are starting from an extremely weak base and will need concerted support efforts. The starting point has to be around managing the virus on an ongoing basis to support business and consumer confidence.

TWO-SPEED RECOVERY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Whilst business confidence and employment intentions are rebounding to a degree, taken together, the trends we have described here create serious problems for many local communities. For example, areas which are heavily dependent on the worst-affected sectors are likely to struggle more than others which, might lead to 'levelling down'. compared to areas that rely on, for example, the services sector.

With all the other factors taken together, we foresee clear risks to the recovery and to our communities of an uneven recovery.

It is in this context that the Chamber Network makes the following recommendations to government.

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SECTION 2
RECOMMENDATIONS

1
MANAGE THE VIRUS RESPONSE IN A WAY THAT HELPS BUSINESSES SURVIVE AND THRIVE

While there are glimmers of optimism about the reopening of the economy, the threat of new variants, the possible need for a further round of vaccinations as we head into the winter and ongoing travel restrictions around the globe, mean that governments must stay laser-focused on the steps they can take to manage the ongoing situation while enabling businesses to get back on their feet:

UK-wide co-ordination of virus management and recovery, ensuring consistency of approach across nations.

The variation between nations has caused a great deal of confusion over the course of the pandemic and has created a competitive disadvantage to firms in some nations compared to others within the UK. All governments should commit to greater consistency of approach for the remainder of this pandemic and any future crises.

Set out a long-term Coronavirus testing strategy so businesses can plan with confidence.

Testing plays a crucial role in minimising the spread of the virus and boosting business and consumer confidence as the economy reopens. Keeping tests available at no, or very low, cost will be essential in the medium term.

Set out contingency plans for future virus response so businesses can invest in their future with confidence.

Businesses and their employees should know what support would kick in, under what circumstances, in the event of a further wave of the virus which leads to restrictions on economic activity. Knowing that the government will once again ensure that livelihoods are protected in the event of further restrictions will enable businesses to build back with confidence and employees to take new jobs without fear of losing out on future furlough payments, should the worst happen.

2

ECONOMIC HEALTH AND INVESTMENT

Nurture those in debt while supercharging growth sectors

Many firms are crippled by debt, as they have taken on more and more loans to survive the pandemic. The BCC's Covid-19 Survey in January 2021 found that the majority of Business to Consumer (B2C) service firms that were looking to access finance were doing so to support cash flow, and not to invest or expand. By implementing the following steps, businesses can pay back loans over time to ensure they survive and pay money back rather than going under:

Require lenders to accept requests from Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan customers for the term of their loans to be extended from six to up to 10 years

While Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS) customers are able to extend their repayment term to 10 years, for Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) customers these extensions are at the discretion of each individual bank. Requiring lenders to offer this extension and communicate the change to CBILS customers will alleviate some pressure on firms looking at how to best manage their Coronavirus-related debts while also enabling their business to recover and grow.

Introduce a blended approach to businesses' Coronavirus-related debt, including a student-loan style option, so firms only pay back debt accrued as a result of the pandemic when they have reached a threshold of profitability

Some businesses will take longer to recover than others – and recovery may not be a linear process, depending on how the virus behaves. It makes sense, therefore, for the government to work with regulators, lenders, and business communities (as end users) to establish a range options whereby firms can pay back Coronavirus-related debt – accrued through no fault of their own – when they can afford to do so, and in the way which best matches their needs, including a student loan option for some where repayments begin once revenues return to pre-crisis levels.

Incentivising business investment

Expand the super deduction as an investment incentive so more and different firms can take advantage of the scheme

The super deduction will provide a major enticement for firms to invest and grow, helping to boost productivity and the wider economic recovery. However, too many businesses are currently excluded from the incentive. To help further support business investment and lift productivity, the super deduction investment incentive could be enhanced to include investments in training and investments that help a business achieve net zero emissions.

Equivalent investment incentives for companies not covered by the super deduction, such a sole traders and partnerships, should also be considered.

Also, given that many firms are still struggling from the damage to their cashflow and revenue from more than a year of Coronavirus restrictions, the super deduction may need to operate for longer to deliver the scale of business investment needed to produce a sustained improvement in UK productivity.

Invest to accelerate growth

Significantly expand the Regional Angels programme reach into high-growth businesses outside of London and the South East by increasing five-fold the funding to £500 million

High-growth companies have the potential to transform our economy and yield huge social and cultural benefits. By allowing the British Business Bank to play a far greater role in improving the quality and reach of early-stage finance, by extending the Regional Angels programme. we could see accelerated innovation and growth in more parts of the UK.

Double the investment in start-up loans from £250 million to £500 million to meet anticipated demand from new business start-ups

With the number of new companies tending to rise during a recession as we see more 'necessity entrepreneurship', it is vital that they have access to the financing they need to grow and create jobs. Therefore, it is vital that Start-Up loans are given sufficient funding capacity to meet any significant surge in demand.

Build on the progress to date and work with Accredited Chambers to deliver a Shared Prosperity Fund which has a clear purpose and role for business, takes account of in-depth local knowledge and which is designed and capitalised to deliver real-world improvements.

The government has committed to delivering a UK Shared Prosperity Fund to meet the gap in funding for regional projects within the UK, created by the UK's exit from the EU and, consequently, the European Structural and Investment Funds. In the 2021 Budget, the Chancellor announced £220 million for Community Renewal Funds, which will pilot approaches for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

It is vital that the Community Renewal Funds are taken forward as quickly as possible. To deliver the maximum impact for regional prosperity, the government must work carefully with Accredited Chambers of Commerce and other business groups from those areas.

The final design of the Shared Prosperity Fund must be organised around the three core principles proposed by the Chamber Network: a clear purpose and role for business; a fund which takes as its starting point a deep understanding of local business conditions and needs; and a fund which delivers real-world business impacts that can be measured and tracked.

Finally, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund must be capitalised to match all the previous structural and investment funding, including 'match' funding by the UK government and Local Authorities.

Invest in place-based business support, in line with the Chamber Network business support principles, ensuring best use of public funds and maximum impact for businesses on the ground.

3

BUILD AN AMBITIOUS GLOBAL TRADE STRATEGY

Businesses, particularly the SME community, will need increased support to rebuild their business post-Coronavirus, yet most have been left cash-poor by the pandemic. By applying the Chamber Network business support principles, government can quickly scale up existing business support and ensure delivery of cost-effective, targeted support.

BCC evidence shows that internationally-active firms are more productive and resilient. Our 2018 Innovation and Productivity Survey highlighted how internationally active firms were more likely to have undertaken innovative activities, such as the introduction of new products, services, or production methods, than non-internationally-active firms.

Our research undertaken throughout the pandemic also shows that internationally active firms, while significantly impacted, have been somewhat more likely to report increased investment and cash flow.

As the UK's trading relationships around the world change, businesses will need greater support, information and incentives to adapt and to harness opportunities to increase trade and attract investment.

A new relationship with Europe

Review new processes resulting from the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) and work with the EU to simplify / streamline, in order to reduce the burden of paperwork and prevent delays. Focus initially on areas where businesses have the greatest difficulty, such as VAT and Rules of Origin.

The challenges businesses have faced adapting to the changes to the trading relationship with the EU go beyond teething problems and present existential challenges to their ability to trade with the EU – and in some cases threaten the viability of their business. The UK and EU governments must continue to work together to overcome some of the challenges presented by the TCA.

Enhance the SME Brexit Support Fund by increasing the maximum payment per company to significantly above the current threshold of £2,000 and extending the scheme to 30 June 2022.

As SMEs continue to find it challenging to adapt to changes brought by the TCA, it is essential that welcome funding via the Brexit Support Fund is increased and extended so that many more businesses can get the support they need to adapt their business model and improve their systems and processes.

Global Britain

Build a coalition of support around a UK trade and investment strategy, bringing together the network of public and private sector organisations working in this space around a shared ambition and shared goals.

For the UK to successfully establish a new place in global trade post-EU membership, government must work to bring together all organisations working in this area behind a shared UK trade and investment strategy where all are united in the ambition and each organisation – including Accredited Chambers of Commerce – plays a role in achieving shared goals.

4

SKILLS FOR THE JOBS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

The ability of employers to recruit, train and retain people with the right skills to enable their businesses to grow and thrive, remains a major business challenge that pre-dates the pandemic. In light of the current challenges facing the UK labour market, including increasing levels of youth employment and the impact of changes to our immigration system, a focus on employment and training is fundamental to our economic recovery.

Skills for the future

Deliver on the recommendations of the Workplace Training and Development Commission, including:

- **Enabling SMEs to understand their own skills needs and identify and invest in the right training options for their teams**
- **Rapid roll out of the Local Skills Improvement Plan process across England**
- **Increased access to digital skills training and bespoke support for digitisation of processes and automation**
- **Access to modular, 'bite-size' units of accredited learning to help adults gain new skills more quickly**
- **Support for individuals to retrain for sustainable careers, including the provision of an all-age, high quality careers information, advice and guidance service.**

In May 2021 the Workplace Training and Development Commission report published a series of recommendations to business and government, setting out what needed to happen to increase levels of training and development activity for adults in the workplace and boost business growth and productivity.

The pandemic has hit younger workers hard, but older workers, particularly those in industries that have been the worst affected, have also been hit hard and may face a tricky return to the labour market.

While the government's 'Skills for Jobs: lifelong learning for opportunity and growth' White Paper sets out important improvements to the skills system, more needs to be done to ensure it has the agility and flexibility to respond quickly to deliver the skills employers need. As well as greater access to publicly-funded modular qualifications, SMEs need impartial business support to identify, plan and invest in their workforce training needs.

Ensure young people who have left school have access to training which enables them to catch up on lost learning, including essential maths, English and digital skills, as well as the softer employability skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience

Businesses have long reported that young people are not leaving education 'work ready' and this has been compounded by the unprecedented disruption to learning that many young people have faced as a result of the pandemic. Specific training to help fill the gaps and prepare people for work will boost confidence and make them more employable in a challenging labour market.

Expand funding for technical qualifications, including funding for the National Skills Fund to £6 billion

Employers need more people with technical qualifications to help drive up productivity and support the journey to net zero. Long term funding for the roll-out of T-levels must be guaranteed, together with funding for the delivery of higher technical qualifications up to at least level 5. Increasing funding for the National Skills Fund to £6 billion will ensure that all adults have access to training and reskilling opportunities and that SMEs have guaranteed access to apprenticeship funding.

Reform the rules governing the right for foreign nationals to work in the UK by expanding the Shortage Occupation List ('SOL') for at least 12 months for sectors where we face immediate labour shortages, such as care workers, and by extending the Seasonal Workers Pilot

While unemployment grows, firms in some sectors, particularly in hospitality, leisure and tourism, and in social care, are reporting persistent recruitment challenges. These sectors lost a substantial number of EU workers as people returned to their home nations during the pandemic. It is not yet clear how many will be willing and able to return. The SOL must respond to these challenges and enable firms to secure the people they need to reopen and rebuild as the recovery begins.

Tackling youth unemployment

Extend incentive payments to employers to encourage the take up of key programmes designed to give young people the skills and experience they will need

Incentive payments have helped employers struggling with cashflow difficulties to create high-quality job placements and training opportunities for young people during the pandemic. Payments to encourage traineeships, apprenticeships and T-level industry placements – as well as the Kickstart job placement support - should be extended to the end of 2022, to help young people gain the skills and experience they need to succeed in the labour market and reflect the continuing uncertainties and pressures for employers.

5
INVEST IN THE PLACES WHERE WE LIVE, WORK, STUDY AND PLAY

Different local areas will feel different impacts from the pandemic. Without intervention, those areas that were already lagging behind in social and economic terms, will take longer to recover. The future of our country depends on a way of ensuring that all parts of the country are 'levelled up' not 'levelled down'.

Our relationship with the places that we live and work have shifted significantly since March 2020. As the economy reopens, it is as important to ensure that our urban centres recover and adapt, as it is to harness the opportunities created for other places as working patterns change.

Transport

Deliver an infrastructure revolution which creates jobs, opens up opportunities to access training and work, and increases greener transport – this should include completion in full of the HS2 'Y' network

Investment in transport infrastructure is an essential ingredient in the recovery and the levelling up agenda. Better connectivity within and between regions will create better opportunities for businesses to trade, and for people to work and train.

Go further than the outcome of the Williams-Shapps Plan and introduce truly flexible fares that work for passengers, whatever their travel needs

While a move towards more flexible fares is a step in the right direction, reforms need to go further. Businesses need access to the widest possible pool of talent to fuel their recovery. That means matching affordable, flexible travel to the needs of learners and employees.

Support regional airport capacity by providing a 12-month Business Rates holiday while they get back on their feet, by reinstating the VAT Retail Export Scheme and by reducing the cost of testing for international travellers

The ability of airports to bounce back from the pandemic underpins economic recovery across the UK. In England, a Business Rates holiday would allow time to for recovery while international travel remains so restricted. In the meantime, the government must ensure that the UK can safely encourage visitors back to the UK as we emerge from the pandemic. That includes reinstating the VAT Retail Export Scheme so that we remain an attractive destination for overseas travellers, and using government purchasing power to drive down the cost of testing and therefore opening up travel to more people as it is safe to do so.

Childcare

Simplify childcare funding by introducing a childcare budget for every family, giving them the freedom to choose the right model for their individual circumstances and the support needed for parents to work

Problems for parents in accessing high-quality affordable childcare harms business growth and prosperity. BCC research in 2016 found that around 10% of businesses reported that employees had left their organisation because of childcare costs, and one third of businesses had cited the availability of childcare as a key issue in recruiting and retaining staff. Through the pandemic, school and nursery closures, lack of wrap-around care, and lack of family support has made it incredibly difficult for many parents, particularly mothers, to balance childcare and work.

At a time of increasing skills shortages, it is even more vital now than before that committed employees are able to stay in the workforce after they become parents. Firms lose a great deal of talent – mostly women – because of the price of childcare. Families feel the cost most acutely before children start school, and attempts to reduce costs and create a simple system will be welcomed warmly by families and businesses alike.

Urban Centres

Make permanent the allowances that have enabled retail and hospitality businesses to make use of outside space, allowing Councils to make decisions about the use of space that encourage footfall to town and city centres, while ensuring the safety of pedestrians, including those with disabilities

Many places have benefitted economically and socially from a relaxation of rules enabling a better use of public spaces. Making these changes permanent could breathe new life into town and city centres that were already struggling pre-pandemic.

Ensure a good balance of housing and employment land use within towns and improve the speed and quality of planning decision-making, enabling businesses to make the most of opportunities and contribute to the local economy

Use of space has quickly shifted during the pandemic. While there is, of course, a need for new housing, government must ensure that councils do not rush to change space to housing, at the cost of employment space. Thoughtful planning, developed in collaboration with local business communities, and delivered through reduced red tape, can ensure a balance is struck and that opportunities are ceased that benefits all citizens.

Deliver on the long-overdue review of Business Rates, creating a fairer, more sustainable system which no longer penalises businesses with a physical presence in our social centres

In its current form the Business Rates system is broken. It creates a number of perverse incentives for both property improvement and plant and machinery investment, causing an unnecessarily large burden to be placed upon businesses regardless of their ability to pay, and does not make allowances for significant structural changes that have taken place in the UK economy over the past decade and are likely to increase further over the coming years. Without rapid reform, the system will continue to constrain business investment and stifle the recovery.

Digital Infrastructure

Bring forward legislation for the roll out of 5G and ensure that this is implemented across the country as soon as possible, including on major rail and road corridors

The pandemic has accelerated the move towards digitisation and e-commerce. Consumer and business customer habits have changed and firms with connectivity challenges face a competitive disadvantage. Rapidly improving digital connectivity, including on transport corridors, will boost the recovery, increase productivity and support the levelling up agenda.

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SECTION 3
CHAMBERS ON THE FRONT LINE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on businesses and jobs across the country and every Chamber in the Network made huge efforts to support their local communities. This is a snapshot of the business support which the Chamber Network has given both to its members and also to their wider business communities, between March 2020 - March 2021.

Accredited Chambers of Commerce will continue to support businesses across the UK as they look to navigate the challenging trading conditions post-pandemic.

Each Chamber had an average of **13** FTE staff involved in supporting their local business communities on Coronavirus-related matters

Each Chamber had on average over **3,600** Coronavirus-related phone calls with their members, and another **2,600** calls with non-members

Each Chamber referred an average of over **2,200** businesses to receive government grants or loans

and each Chamber has connected on average **150 BUSINESSES** to NHS supply chain channels to enable procurement of PPE and other essential equipment.

Each Chamber held on average **61** Coronavirus-related virtual or in-person events each

Hosted an average total of almost **1,600** attendees

Each Chamber sent on average **2,500** Coronavirus-related newsletters or update emails to their members and almost every Chamber launched a dedicated Coronavirus support webpage

THE UK CHAMBER NETWORK

Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce
Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce
Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Business West Chamber of Commerce
Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce
Cornwall Chamber of Commerce
Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
Doncaster Chamber of Commerce
Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce
East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
East Midlands Chamber - Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire
Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Essex Chambers of Commerce
Fife Chamber of Commerce
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Group
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce
Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce
Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce
Inverness Chamber of Commerce
Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce
Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce
Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
North East England Chamber of Commerce
Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce (incorporating Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce)
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce
Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
Somerset Chamber of Commerce
South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
South Wales Chamber of Commerce
St Helens Chamber
Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Surrey Chambers of Commerce
Sussex Chamber of Commerce
Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group
West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Wirral Chamber of Commerce
Crown Dependencies Chambers Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man

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Accredited Chambers in the UK

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About NatWest

NatWest serves customers in England and Wales, supporting them with their personal, private, and business banking needs. NatWest helps customers at all stages in their lives, from opening student accounts, to buying their first home, setting up a business, and saving for retirement.

Alongside a wide range of banking services, NatWest offers businesses specialist sector knowledge in areas such as sustainable energy, commercial property and technology, as well as access to specialist entrepreneurial support.

NatWest has been running MoneySense, an impartial financial education programme for 5–18 year-olds, for 25 years.

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