



## **Lancashire support service prepares over 800 business leaders for Brexit**

More than 800 Lancashire business leaders have used a Government-backed support programme to prepare for the changes set to come into effect if the UK leaves the EU on October 31.

Brexit is expected to happen in nine days' time whether the UK strikes a deal with the EU or not. Throughout October, representatives from more than 300 different companies across the county have attended free events organised by the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce.

The support was delivered through the Chamber's Help for Brexit programme, which was funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Brexit Readiness Fund.

Around 20 webinars, seminars, workshops, training courses and business clinics have been delivered in Lancashire designed to help businesses understand and prepare for different Brexit circumstances, including a no-deal.

Babs Murphy, chief executive at the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, said:

“Companies of all sizes and sectors across Lancashire are recognising that failing to prepare for Brexit is not an option. Through the Help for Brexit programme, these business have received expert guidance to understand the wide-ranging effects leaving the EU will create.

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“This was an ambitious yet vital programme of funded support to ready Lancashire for the wave of potential delays, regulatory changes and host of other impacts which will hit every business across the county. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in its delivery.”

The support covered a range of Brexit issues including cross-border trade, people, skills, immigration, regulatory compliance, accounting, taxation and insurance, with a focus on no-deal planning. The last two events of the programme are being held in Chorley and Preston today.

The support was made available to all businesses operating in Preston, Wyre, Fylde, Blackpool, Lancaster, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire.

Babs added: “Despite the success of Help for Brexit, many businesses in Lancashire have still yet to begin their preparations.

“This will mean they are unaware of what they could face when they wake up on November 1. We would urge them to seek advice through the Chamber or through a range of Government-backed schemes available to Lancashire business.”

Help for Brexit is funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy’s Brexit Readiness Fund. The £10m Government fund has been allocated to business support organisations across the UK to help businesses get ready for Brexit on October 31.

Full details of the programme are available at [www.helpforbrexit.co.uk](http://www.helpforbrexit.co.uk).

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The North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce has more than 1,600 members across Lancashire. Contact the Chamber to find out about the support and advice on offer.

Ends.

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