



BROADWAY BULLETIN

LOCKED DOWN BUT NOT LOCKED OUT

Who would have thought that nearly a year on we would still be in the midst of a pandemic! What we thought would be a few weeks out of the office have morphed into a new year and have created a new way of working. During this time, we have carried on and continued with business as usual, although it has been a bit unusual, to say the least! Whilst we haven't been able to enjoy seeing our clients as we normally would, the wonder of Zoom has enabled us to continue with regular meetings and provide our full range of services.

Sadly, this year, we've said goodbye to Julie who has moved onto pastures new after 12 years with the firm. We wish her all the best for her future.

Every year we review our ongoing strategy for the future and this year is no different. We have put some exciting plans in place, the main one being to welcome our clients back to the Farncombe Estate as soon as we can. Many of you haven't yet had a chance to visit our new office. However, with the ongoing vaccine programme, a spacious and ventilated meeting room and a strong desire on our part to see you as soon as we safely can, we hope it won't be too long before we can conduct face to face meetings again.

We definitely feel that the end is in sight and are planning accordingly!

Best wishes



Keri Carter, CFP™
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Practitioner
Managing Director



BUDGET 2021

Following a global pandemic, how do you solve a problem like the Budget?

During a normal year, the Chancellor uses the Budget to set out some long-term aims. For the second time in a row, the focus will be less on the long term and more about the here and now. The Chancellor has been in firefighting mode ever since he took office, and that's still the case today.

The Budget this month is not going to have too much impact on the reopening of the UK economy this summer – it will be driven by consumer demand as we start to get used to socialising once more. It appears that the government is doing everything it can not to stand in the way of the recovery, as we've seen in the Budget.

Here are some of the main points we feel are relevant:

• GROWTH FORECASTS AND DATA

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) estimates that the economy will grow by 4% this year, followed by 7.3% in 2022. These have been boosted following the success of the vaccine roll out. These growth rates suggest that the economy will return to its pre-Covid level by the middle of 2022 - a lot sooner than many expected this time a year ago.

• UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is expected to peak at 6.5%, massively down from estimates of 11.9% from July last year. This means 1.8 million fewer people without a job. This will keep the pressure on the government to continue with a pro-growth agenda, into 2022 and beyond. As the service sector opens up, these jobs will return.

Continued over.



BUDGET 2021 (CONTINUED)

• THREE-PART PLAN TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS

- o The Furlough Scheme will be extended to the end of September. It will pay 80% of wages until July, when employers will be expected to pay 10%, then in August and September, employers will be asked to contribute 20%.
- o Support for the self-employed continues with 4th and 5th grants. Support depends on losses to turnover. Total support for self-employed sums to £30bn.
- o Universal credit uplift of £20 per week to continue for 6 months.

• TOTAL BORROWING

- The UK will borrow a peacetime record of £355bn this year, and borrowing will total £234bn in 2021-2022.
- The costs of borrowing are currently low, but the government highlighted their awareness that rates will rise eventually. The sooner we can start reducing the debt pile, the happier they'll be.

In essence, this brings together a number of key points which suggest a more stable position in the future;

- The figures seem to indicate an earlier than expected return to pre-covid economic levels.
- The expected numbers of unemployed people is lower than originally thought.
- Protecting the “ordinary people” will aid recovery as they have sufficient money to buy goods and services.
- Whilst interest rates remain low, there is no better time to borrow and the UK is not alone in this.

As we've seen over the last 12 months, having a diversified investment strategy continues to provide protection (and opportunities) in volatile periods and remains the key when creating investment portfolios for clients.

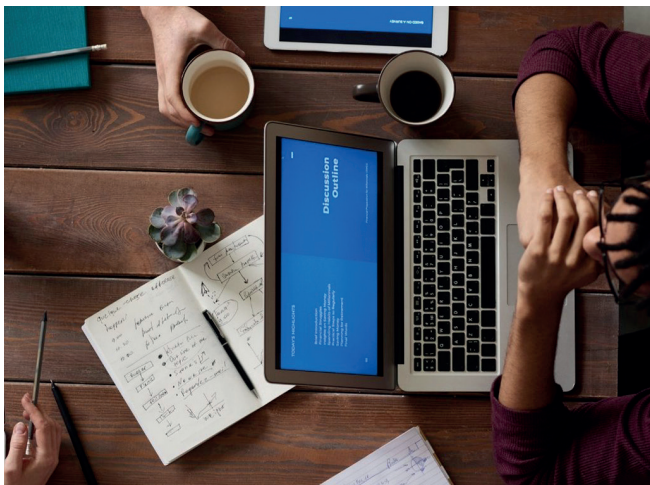


RESOURCES PAGE

Look out for some changes to our website coming soon. We will be adding a resource page which will hold a library of useful fact sheets, forms and videos. We hope it will be a useful addition and will provide plenty of information and interactive documents. Watch this space!

SPRING IS HERE

Spring has certainly arrived on the Farncombe Estate and with it a buzz of things to come. We cannot wait to welcome you back to our beautiful office.



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