

COVID-19 - EDC Briefing - 2 April 2020

Eden District Council announces measures to support local businesses

The Chancellor has announced a range of measures related to coronavirus, which are intended to provide support for public services, individuals and businesses to ensure the impact of the disease is minimised. Eden District Council is administering the following business rate holidays and grants:

Business Rates Relief

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020-21 tax year.

Nurseries in England do not have to pay business rates for the 2020/21 tax year.

Eligible businesses will receive one grant per business property. The Council has automatically applied the rates holiday to eligible businesses and is in the process of sending out bills for 2020/21.

However, not all businesses will be eligible for this financial support. The following are excluded from both grants:

Properties occupied for personal use, such as personal stables and moorings

Car parks and parking spaces

Businesses that on 11 March 2020 were in liquidation or dissolved.

Grants available

Small Business Grant Funding - This is to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) or Rural Rate Relief (RRR).

It's a one-off £10,000 grant available to businesses who qualify for SBRR or RRR, to help meet their ongoing business costs. The rateable value limit is £15,000

If your bill shows you receive either SBRR or RRR and you were in occupation of, and trading from, the premises on 11 March 2020 you may be eligible for the grant.

Grant for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure - This is to support businesses in the retail, hospitality or leisure sector

It is a one-off cash grant of:

£25,000 to eligible businesses with rateable values between £15,001 and £50,999

£10,000 to eligible businesses with rateable values up to £15,000

If your bill shows that you are receiving Retail discount (Coronavirus) and you were in occupation of, and trading from, the premises on 11 March 2020 you may be eligible for the grant.

Further information, including the form to apply for the grant is on the council website www.eden.gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the contact centre on 01768 81817 to request a form. If you have already completed the form on our website, you don't need to do anything further.

Eden District Council's Interim Director of Corporate Services, Paul Sutton said: "We've asked businesses to complete an online form so that we can securely check their eligibility against the qualifying criteria and also collect their payment details to ensure safe and quick payments are made direct to businesses.

"We've already received 650 applications, a majority of them from small businesses. We've been processing the applications as quickly as possible and will soon begin making payments direct to successful applicants, who should start to see the money in their accounts in the coming days.

"The council has also announced that it has suspended car parking charges at all its off street parking locations in order to minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus via payment machines as well as providing a small measure of relief for those local business that remain open, their staff and their customers.

"We hope to be able to announce more measures that the council will be taking in support of local businesses and financially vulnerable residents, very soon."

Eden District Council Services update:

The council's offices at The Town Hall and Mansion House remain closed to the public until further notice. The Local Link offices in Alston and Kirkby Stephen are also closed to the public. Customers are encouraged to use the online pay, report and apply functions at www.eden.gov.uk or to call the contact centre on 01768 817817, if you need to speak to a customer service advisor.

After a short suspension, garden waste collections resumed on Tuesday 31 March 2020. Residents are asked to disinfect the handles on bins and boxes before placing them out for collection and again, after they have been emptied. Eden District Council's Services Portfolio holder, Cllr. Michael Tonkin said: "The recommendations as to the presentation of garden waste for collection are particularly important, to protect our waste operatives and thereby safeguard future collections."

Green waste skip services and the council's pre-booked appliance and bulky collections remain suspended.

Footway Lighting will be run at a reduced level, with the exception of any emergency works. However this will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

The leisure centres in Penrith and Appleby are closed to the public, as are all council managed leisure facilities and playgrounds.

At the request of Cumbria Police and in accordance with Government guidelines, the Frenchfields sports centre has been temporarily closed. However, all other council managed public parks currently remain open.

Penrith Museum and Tourist information centre is closed to the public. However, telephone and email enquiries are still being handled.

Service provision may change in response to guidance from the Government and Public Health England, as well as the availability of staff and contractors. Will keep members updated with any future changes, as and when they occur.

COVID-19 waste - safe preparation

Government advice is that waste from a house with cases of COVID-19 should be placed in a bag, which is then sealed, placed inside another bag, which is also sealed (so double-bagged but not both tied at the same time) and then stored for 72 hours before being put out for collection. So the timing of the deposit of the waste into the residual waste bin is all important in order to protect collection staff.

Fly tipping

Residents are being reminded that all of Cumbria County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) are currently closed. Bags of waste should not be left outside the sites. This is fly tipping, it is illegal and it uses staff and resources that could be helping with Coronavirus in a better way. Fly-tipping includes leaving items outside charity shops, recycling bring sites, outside the boundary of your property, or outside the now closed Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

Cumbria County Council's website has detailed information and FAQ's about its waste collection and recycling services, it is available to view [here](#).

Burning Waste

The public are being asked not to be tempted to burn their waste; particularly any household waste as this can cause environmental damage/pollution, generating smoke into the atmosphere; and therefore a health risk to those with respiratory problems and may result in the need for the fire service to attend; therefore drawing them away from more urgent need in the community.

Bring Sites

Community Recycling Bring Sites remain open for the time being. For those who use their Recycling Bring Sites please ensure that you rinse and place only those items listed in the containers for recycling. Try not to make special journeys to the sites, but use them when you go to do your shopping.

Please do not leave any items whatsoever around the sites (this is classed as fly-tipping) and please adhere to the social distancing when using the sites (2 metres apart). Please ensure you wash your hands as soon as you get home

Key messages for residents

The coronavirus is the biggest threat this country has faced in decades – and this country is not alone. All over the world we are seeing the devastating impact of this invisible killer. Which is why the government is working to a scientifically-led, step-by-step action plan – taking the right measures at the right time.

In dealing with this unprecedented challenge, what everyone must recognise is that our NHS – like any health service around the world – only has a limited number of doctors, nurses, and specialist equipment. This means it can only deal with so many sick people at once.

The more people that get sick with coronavirus at any one time the harder it is for the NHS to cope – meaning more people are likely to die from the coronavirus, as well as other serious illnesses. Therefore, if we can slow the spread of coronavirus so fewer people are sick at any one time, we can protect the NHS's ability to cope.

That's why, in addition to lifting the capacity of the NHS, the Government is asking everyone to stay at home – unless they have one of the reasons that have been set out. It's simply the best weapon we have to slow the spread of the virus. That way we can protect the NHS and save lives.

During this difficult time for the country, we recognise the extreme disruption the necessary actions are having on people's lives, their businesses, their jobs and the nation's economy. And that's why we have produced a huge and unprecedented programme of support both for workers and for business, and we'll do everything we can to ensure people can pay their bills, stay in their home and put food on their table.

We know this will not be a short battle – beating coronavirus will take months, not weeks. But the Government is keeping all the current restrictions, and any further action that might be required, under constant review and they will be relaxed if and when the evidence shows we are able to.

However, the reality is the way ahead is hard and many lives will sadly be lost. But we have in the past so many times, the people of the United Kingdom will rise to this current challenge and we will beat the coronavirus together.

At this moment of national emergency – it is vital that we all stay at home, protect our NHS and save lives.

Latest position from Government

MHCLG are sending out a regular [bulletin](#) updating on latest Government guidance, advice, communications products and other useful information about coronavirus (COVID-19).

The following GOV.UK page has also been set up to bring together guidance for local councils and LRFs during the coronavirus outbreak: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>.

Latest updates

[\(COVID-19\): guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#)

[\(COVID-19\): business support grant funding - guidance for local authorities](#)
[Coronavirus](#)

[\(COVID-19\): notification of data controllers to share information](#)

VE day 75th anniversary celebrations

The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations are working on revised plans to ensure the nation can still thank the Second World War generation on the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May in a manner consistent with the measures to contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Given the circumstances, digital options are likely to provide the safest means to provide this fitting tribute. Colleagues from DCMS are leading the coordination of the Government's programme, and an announcement will be made in due course. In the meantime, where your Local Authority has the capacity to do so, please do think about how communities can join in online to learn about VE Day and honour those who made so many sacrifices for our nation.

These are extraordinary circumstances for all those wishing to organise fitting commemorations for the Second World War generation.

All Local Authorities, event organisers and individuals need to follow the latest Government guidelines on mass gatherings and social distancing which are based on the expert medical and scientific advice from Public Health England.

Updates will continue to be posted on the www.gov.uk website at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings>

Shielding

Yesterday (01 April), Catherine Frances, Director General, sent a letter to local council Chief Executives on the new Shielding Programme. Attached to this letter was a document of Frequently Asked Questions which, amongst other useful information, included the following:

To be classified as clinically vulnerable an individual must be identified by a clinician in accordance with the advice of the Chief Medical Officer. People in this group are contacted directly by the NHS. Details about Shielding can be found on the government website. People with this underlying medical risk are recommended to remain in self-isolation for a prolonged period during the epidemic. You should be aware that this group of people is not necessarily the same cohort as those whom you might usually consider to be amongst your most vulnerable residents, for other services. Details about Shielding can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

The Government has offered a weekly food parcel service for shielded people, if they do not have the social support to get their essential supplies with help from neighbours and family.

Data delivery was shared with local authorities on Sunday so local authorities should know who received boxes. MHCLG intends to begin sharing updates more systematically as soon as possible.

We ask that Local Authorities support shielded individuals by reaching out to those who have requested assistance bringing the box inside when they registered for the service, and also consider whether shielded people have indicated that they need some form of social contact. Contact should be consistent with the advice for them to self-isolate.

Vulnerable children and young people

The guidance on vulnerable children and young people from the Department of Education and Public Health England has been updated.

It includes information on partial closures of some institutions, support for children supported by the children's social care system, children with education health and care (EHC) plans and children in alternative provisions (AP) settings.

Further details: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Useful links:

[Find the latest online from nhs.uk](#) for symptoms and dos and don'ts.

[Find the latest online from gov.uk](#) for staying at home, social isolation and shielding guidance.

Also, [gov.uk coronavirus guidance collection](#) for health professionals, employers, businesses and other organisations.

[Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus](#)

Volunteering across the county is being coordinated by Cumbria CVS and partners via a new website at SupportCumbria.org.uk.

[Cumbria County Council - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Latest Information](#)

[Cumbria County Council - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Local Communities](#)