

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE: CLLR DARREN TYSOE  
NOVEMBER 2020, HAIL WESTON

### **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough contact tracing service on Thursday 19 November**

As part of our concerted efforts to drive down community infections, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and the five district and city councils in Cambridgeshire, will be working closely with NHS Test and Trace to contact people who have tested positive for Covid-19, giving them help, advice and support to self-isolate, in a further bid to crack down on the pandemic.

The new countywide scheme is an expansion of the Peterborough contact tracing service which launched in August and has so far proven valuable in keeping rates of the virus reduced. More than 350 cases have been passed to us from the National NHS Track and Trace system and we have successfully contacted 83% of them.

From Thursday, officers from each of the councils who have undergone special training in contact tracing, will be following up on people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but have not responded to a call or email from the national service, and will ask them for details of their close contacts.

Council officers will initially make contact by phone, text or email asking people to call a local number - which from earlier experiences in contacting shielded people, has been found to be more effective than a contact from a national number.

But if this fails, the officers, who will all carry local authority identification - will make house to house visits to reach those people who have tested positive. They will be given advice and support on how they can stay isolated to break the chain of infection, and prevent it spreading to their household contacts. They will also be asked to share details of others they have been in contact with.

Anyone who is concerned by being contacted can call the council or local community hub to check the identity of the tracer on 0345 045 5219.

We know that the quicker we can reach people who've tested positive and get them to isolate - and get them to share details of who they've been in contact with - the quicker we can break the chain of infection.

Through our network of community hubs we have also put in place support for those who need to isolate, if they don't have friends or family who can help them, and this information will be given to all those who are contacted.

Information will also be provided about the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme which entitles people who meet certain criteria to a one-off payment of £500 and the £500 discretionary payment which is available for people who do not receive benefits, which is requirement to claim from the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme, but are still adversely affected as a result of not being able to work.

A step-by-step guide to how the system works:

- If the national NHS Test and Trace service is unable to make contact with anyone who tests positive with a Cambridgeshire or Peterborough postcode after 24 hrs, they will refer the details into our new, local Cambridgeshire and Peterborough contact tracing team.
- The local team will receive this information daily, seven days a week.
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough team will contact people, initially by phone or text or email, and this will show up as a local number or come from an official council email address. The person will be asked to contact a local number.
- If we can't contact them through phone/SMS/email after another 24 hours we will send a council officer to the person's address to speak to them personally.
- We will provide advice to them, get details of their 'contacts' and then update the national system with this information,
- The national process and service will then take over and contact the close contacts of the people we've been in contact with. The loop currently ends there for us in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- When we make contact we will also see if people need any support or help through our network of Coordination Hubs – this could be financial support if people are unable to work, support to shop for food, get medication or undertake essential household chores etc.

## **HDC Local Restrictions Support Grant**

Huntingdonshire District Council launched the new Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) on Monday 16 November. A new process is being set up to distribute money to businesses on behalf of the Government, in response to the second national lockdown which came into force on Thursday 5 November.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) has both mandatory and discretionary elements. The mandatory element will support businesses that were open as usual, providing services in-person to customers from their business premises, but which were then required to close due to lockdown restrictions imposed by the government. You can learn more about the Government's support for businesses [here](#).

Eligible businesses will receive the following amounts based on the rateable value of the property:

Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on the date of the commencement of the widespread national restrictions will receive a payment of £1,334 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.

Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on the date of the commencement of the widespread national restrictions will receive a payment of £2,000 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.

Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or above on the commencement date of the widespread national restrictions, will receive £3,000 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.

The discretionary element is the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) fund where the council has chosen to help businesses outside the business rates system which have been forced to close or have been severely impacted by the restrictions to control the spread of COVID-19.

The Council has chosen to use part of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) fund for a discretionary grant scheme, for those businesses that were eligible for the previous discretionary grant scheme in the summer i.e. B&B's, shared workspaces, market traders and charities. They will receive a one-off payment of £1,000 to cover the period of national lockdown (05/11/20 – 02/12/20).

Some of the discretionary fund will be used to support activities linked to the economic growth strategy, to provide longer term and sustainable support to the businesses and the economy. A plan for the use of the remaining funds will be shared once the economic growth strategy for the council is published.

The scheme will open to applications at 10am on Monday 16 November online on our website: [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) and close on Monday 30 November. Further detail on how businesses can apply will be shared on our website and social media in due course.

Please note, to access the application form when live, businesses will need to use a My.Huntingdonshire account. If you do not have a My.Huntingdonshire account you can register for one here ahead of application forms going live on Monday 16 November. More information on the new national restrictions is available via We are Huntingdonshire, our dedicated COVID-19 portal.

## **CIL FUNDING 2020**

HDC has written to Parish and Town Councils to apply for CIL Funds.

CIL is paid to HDC, as the Charging Authority, by developers after their planning permissions are commenced. Since CIL was implemented, it has become the primary means by which HDC is able to collect and pool developer contributions to deliver new infrastructure. CIL can be used to fund:

Fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area

Support the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure outside its area where to do so would support the development of its area.

CIL bids will need to be submitted to the Council no later than midday on the 14th December 2020.

Further information has been emailed to PC/TC Clerks.