

Councillors Covid-19 Outbreak Briefing

6 April 2020

Service Update

- As of Monday 6 April, Resident Services have 75% staff availability and the highest percentage of staff home-working since the crisis began.
- Council Tax Support Hardship payment qualifiers identified (where we will be adding £150 to 2020/21 Council Tax Support entitlement). CDC will be helping 450 households, totalling £67k.
- Business Rate Grants, where the customer has provided their information, will start to go out today (Monday 6th April) - 10 test payments will be made.
- Please encourage any eligible businesses that have not submitted their details to download the form from the Council's website at <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/coronavirus-business-and-licensing/> and return it by email ASAP.
- **Waste:** 27 staff are self-isolating. Green Waste collections remain suspended and Street Cleaning is scaled back but all other services are operating as usual.
- **Finance:** The deadline for our 2019/20 Financial Statements has been extended to 31/8/20 for draft accounts and 30/11/20 for the audited Financial Statements.
- **Finance:** MHCLG have asked for data on the financial impact of Covid 19, both direct financial implications and indirect (e.g. loss of income). Some initial work has already been carried out but this requires further refinement to include items such as: investment income, commercial rental income, the impact upon Retained Business Rates and Council Tax (which will impact upon both the current financial year 2020/21 and next financial year 2021/22).

Community Support/Resilience

Stop Loan Sharks campaign and helpline - this is a time of increased financial pressure for some people. Find out more at www.stoploansharks.co.uk and please share the helpline number 0300 555 2222.

Love thy neighbour

With so many people abiding by Government instructions and staying at home, the Council has appealed to residents to be as considerate as possible as we continue to navigate our way through the Coronavirus situation. Read more here:

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/love-thy-neighbour>

Domestic abuse

We are extremely concerned about the rise in reported incidents in domestic abuse as the lockdown continues; and the ability of those experiencing abuse to access help.

Please note that GDASS continue to operate:

- Email: support@gdass.org.uk
- Web: gdass.org.uk
- Twitter: @gdass

and we are recommending use of the Hollie Guard app too as far as is possible - hollieguard.com or download the app.

Please also remember that the Home Office has published [advice and guidance for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse](#) during the outbreak.

Business information

The Government has produced an FAQ document covering some of the most common questions raised about the grant schemes (see attached document).

Sport England has announced a £195 million package of emergency support to help clubs and community organisations cope with the short and long-term impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Details at

<https://www.sportengland.org/news/195-million-package-help-sport-and-physical-activity-through-coronavirus>.

Gloucestershire County Council

[New information about Free School Meals provision during the Easter Holidays](#)

Website Information

Our website and social media channels have all the latest information concerning how we are operating in the midst of this emergency situation. We encourage you to follow them and check the website regularly.

Website: www.cotswold.gov.uk
Twitter: [@CotswoldDC](https://twitter.com/CotswoldDC)
Facebook: [@CotswoldDC](https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldDC)
LinkedIn: [@CotswoldDC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cotswolddc)

Contact Reminder

If you need to contact the council we have set up two ways to do this and this will ensure your request is managed appropriately. Obviously we are dealing with a major global emergency so we will prioritise service requests.

Tel: 01285 623005
Email: councillor.contact@cotswold.gov.uk