

## Daily COVID-19 update

### **Humanitarian Assistance Response Team (Hart)**

A new email address and phone number have been launched to help any isolated Nottinghamshire residents get the support they need during this pandemic.

The email address, [enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk), should be the first means of registering yourself for this support and those unable to access the internet, can use the telephone number, 0300 500 8080 which will link you directly to a team of 120 people who can help individuals with the supply of food, necessities and other vital assistance.

Staff from Newark and Sherwood District Council have formed a new team - the Humanitarian Assistance Response Team (HART), which will work with colleagues from Nottinghamshire County Colleagues, to lead on efforts locally and to coordinate the work that is required to help vulnerable residents. All staff working on the HART team will be authorised and accredited by the Council to do so. All Newark and Sherwood residents should ensure that they liaise directly with Nottinghamshire County Council and with the local District Council HART team at this unprecedented time.

The HART's immediate focus will be those who live in Newark and Sherwood that have been identified by the NHS as among the 1.5 million who have been told to self-isolate for a recommended period of 12 weeks, as well as older people and those with income challenges.

Local Government Minister and Newark MP Robert Jenrick announced at the weekend that new community hubs would be set up to lead on the 'humanitarian' effort. The Government is liaising with supermarkets to ensure that basic food packages can be supplied to all those eligible. This new email address and phone number is set up to allow vulnerable residents and community groups to access their local community hub.

In addition to helping isolated residents, the District Council is also mapping the community groups that are already in place and will then help plug the gaps where there is a need. If you are a community group, faith group, charity, parish or town council that are planning to support people who are self-isolating please make contact either via email preferably to [enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk) including 'Volunteering' in the subject line, or by calling 0300 500 8080. You need to provide the following information:

- Your name / organisation
- Contact details - postal, telephone and email address
- Have you been DBS checked?
- Area of Nottinghamshire in which you are able to provide support
- What support you can offer.

District Council Leader Councillor David Lloyd said: *“This is a national emergency and we need to respond swiftly and effectively to support the most vulnerable in our communities who will be deeply impacted by the need to self-isolate given the critical state of the coronavirus pandemic in the United Kingdom. I am confident and determined that our communities will rise to the challenge and help pull us through these really challenging times. I would encourage anyone who has no support not to suffer, but to email us or call the new helpline. In addition if you are part of a community group that is able to help us at this time, then please either call the helpline or email us. I want to thank everyone involved in this project for their speed, focus and dedication to helping our community.”*

Nottinghamshire County Council launched the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire community support and volunteering hub at 10am on Monday 23 March 2020. The telephone support service on 0300 500 8080 is open between 8.30am-5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

For further information: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/coronavirus/nottingham-and-nottinghamshire-community-support-and-volunteering-hub>

## **Financial Support for Residents**

NSDC is now applying additional Council tax reductions of £150 for all households of working age that are already in receipt of [Local Council Tax Support \(LCTS\)](#). There is no need to do anything if you qualify for this Council Tax reduction as we have already begun issuing new bills for approximately 3,700 households who qualify.

## **Business**

### Financial support for businesses

NSDC is keen to support its business community and their employees in these unprecedented and challenging times as a result of Coronavirus (Covid-19). Given recent Government announcements, and to assist in understanding the raft of support available, we have collated the key measures, including how NSDC will be responding. We remain committed to being as flexible as possible in administering relief for qualifying businesses and people affected.

- A **statutory sick pay relief** package for SMEs
- **Business Grants** of between £10,000 and £25,000 have now started being paid to eligible businesses as follows:

1. **£10,000 grant per business** in receipt of **Small Business Rates Relief and Rural Rates Relief**; or
2. **£10,000 grant per business** in the **Retail, Hospitality, and Leisure Sector** with rateable value of £15k or less at 11 March 2020

Please note, if businesses fall within both categories 1 and 2 above, the maximum grant eligible will be £10,000

3. **£25,000 grant per business** in the **Retail, Hospitality, and Leisure Sector** with a rateable value of more than £15k but less than £51k at 11 March 2020

If your business qualifies for one of the above grants, NSDC will be organising payments (if we already hold your account details) or will be making contact to ask that you provide important information so we can issue the grants without delay. This important information can be provided by completing a **secure online form**

Businesses with a rateable value of £51k or over are not eligible for this scheme but may be eligible for assistance via the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan](#) fund.

- **Nil Business Rates for 2020/21 for all businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors.** If you are a business in this sector, there is no need to do anything more. For guidance, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance>
- An **ability for businesses to claim against insurance policies** that covers a pandemic following confirmation from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Government advice is “clear enough to claim”.
- Temporary **suspension of planning regulations** to allow all pubs and restaurants to operate temporarily as takeaways.

[Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#)

Businesses may be eligible for a [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan](#) of up to a maximum of £1.2 million. This scheme is delivered through commercial lenders, backed by the Government-owned British Business Bank. There are [40 accredited lenders able to offer the scheme](#), including all the major banks. The decision on whether to offer finance is taken by each individual lender, not by the Government. Businesses remain responsible for repaying any loans they take out.

There is also information on additional support at the Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub at <https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/news/latest-news/covid-19-support-for-businesses/>

#### Financial support for employees

##### **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**

All UK employers are able to access support to continue paying part of their salaries for employees who would otherwise have had their employment stopped during this crisis. HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.

The scheme applies to all UK businesses. In order to apply, businesses need to:

- Designate affected employees as ‘furloughed workers,’ and notify their employees of this change. Changing the status of employees remains subject to existing employment law and, depending on the employment contract, may be subject to negotiation
- Submit information to HMRC about the employees that have been ‘furloughed’ and their earnings through a new online portal

For further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

#### Food Business Advice

NSDC understands that businesses may look to change their business model and diversify in order to maintain their business during this time. The following advice is for those businesses that are looking to make provision for takeaways and deliveries where they have not done so before.

A business will only be in a position to do this if they are registered as a food business with a Local Authority.

Scientific advice is that it is very unlikely that Coronavirus (Covid-19) can be spread through food. However, if you are changing how you are used to operating, you should think about the potential hazards and ensure you have effective control measures in place.

For further information: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/foodsafety/>

## Other Business Support Advice

[Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees](#)

[Support for businesses who pay business rates](#)

[Support for businesses who pay little or no business rates](#)

[Support for businesses through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#)

[Support for businesses paying tax](#)

[Insurance](#)

The East Midlands Chamber have created a [Coronavirus hub](#) on their website which is updated daily with the latest developments and new financial measures.

[British Independent Retailers Association has a webpage](#) containing advice for employers on health and safety advice and employment law.

[The Federation of Small Business has a webpage](#) which consists of various forms of advice to small business about coronavirus.

The Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development has information which sets out how employers should respond to the threat from coronavirus. <https://www.cipd.co.uk/news-views/coronavirus>

## **Other**

From 30 March 2020, MOT due dates for cars, motorcycles and light vans will be extended by 6 months. This is being done to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19). You do not need to do anything to extend your vehicle's MOT expiry date if it's on or after 30 March 2020. However, you must [keep your vehicle safe to drive](#).