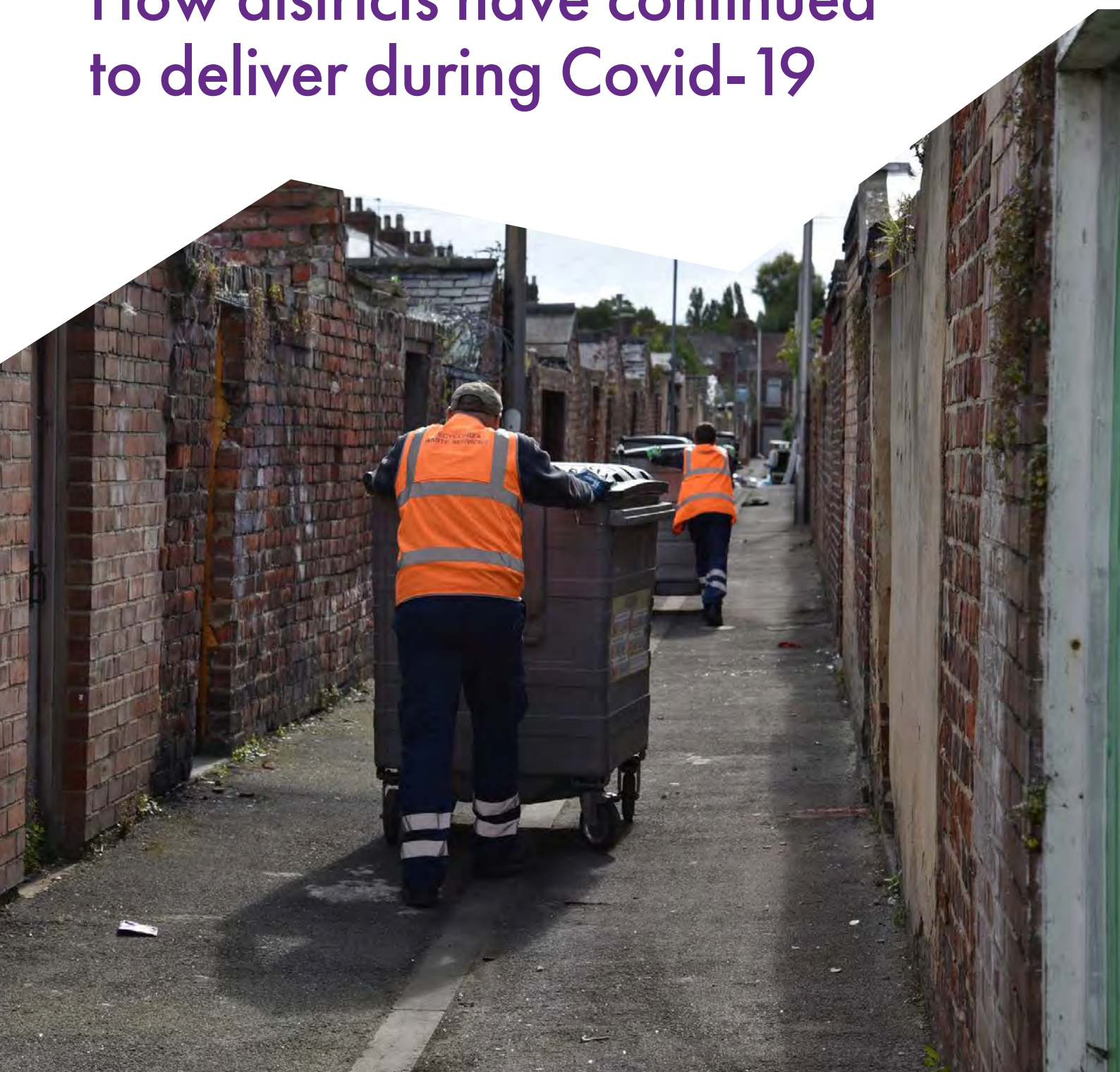


CASE STUDY REPORT:

How districts have continued to deliver during Covid-19



INTRODUCTION

District councils have responded quickly to help residents and business through this emergency, delivering 86 crucial services to over 22 million people. We have set up the Local Support System, helping the vulnerable, and the homeless. We are working at pace to deliver lifelines to local businesses. We are collecting the bins and keeping parks open. And, as planning authorities we are thinking ahead to how we can drive the local recovery.

This brief report outlines some of the innovative approaches districts have taken to respond quickly to Covid and protect their residents, local economies and businesses. It is through the local knowledge and data that districts have been able to respond so effectively, tapping into networks to provide for vulnerable residents, create support hubs and continue the delivery of vital services such as waste and recycling.

Through these case studies, districts have proven to use local knowledge and data to best respond during a health emergency. Councils have even used this crisis as an opportunity to enhance community connectivity and engagement so that residents feel supported through their councils and places.

These case studies highlight the variety of approaches councils have taken to respond to Covid-19, remobilising existing resources, adapting services, collaborating with businesses and engaging with residents to become part of a larger network to help other residents.

CASE STUDIES

INFORMATION SHARING AND SUPPORT

Colchester Borough Council – Covid-19 Community Response Pack

Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has been proactive in its work and has developed strategies to deal with potential impacts and unforeseen consequences of Covid-19 and how to mitigate those impacts. One of the ways is through the creation of a 'Covid-19 Community Response Pack' to support residents throughout the crisis. The document pulls together a coherent and informative pack that enables residents to access key information in one clear place.

In addition to the information provided in the pack, CBC has developed a Community Response team which provides support, advice and assistance to those who live in the borough. Additionally, CBC anticipates particular challenges residents might face including accessing pay-as-you-go meters for heating and power. There is an entire section on utilities and power networks to provide key information regarding bills and access to support. The pack helps outline steps to help people stay safe.

Finally, CBC provides information on protecting one's physical and mental health during the crisis by providing vital local and national contact details for support lines as well as potential exercises one can do to keep fit and well. Overall, this CBC and the Response Pack is a great example of how district's network and local knowledge offers great support to residents as they can anticipate local needs and how they can be helped.

Gloucester City Council – Build Relationships Before You Need Them

Gloucester City Council realised early on, that the most effective support and response base during Covid-19, would be from neighbour to neighbour. To enable a community driven response to the pandemic, the Council enlisted the support of the Gloucester Community Building Collective to help mobilise the community. As a new organisation with a core purpose of connecting residents and growing community capacity, it was well placed to assist both the Council and the wider community.

With organisational support in place, the Council was able to provide information on 'Practical Idea for Supporting Neighbours' which lists numerous steps including social media advice and staying local. The Council ensured that there would be at least one representative per street, so residents had someone local to contact. The Council used the #ViralKindness card to send out to residents so they could send their neighbours contact information whilst outlining what services they could help with, including picking up supplies, a phone call and sending post.

CLLr Jennie Watkins and local business leaders, worked to form a food consortium, which involved repurposing an entertainment venue into a food warehouse, which would act as central collection point where food parcels could be collected or distributed from.

Requests for food would then be received through either the Street Champions or through the County Council's Help Hub. These requests for food were triaged with options for free food parcels or paid packages. Many other organisations also offered pre-prepared meals including the Long Table, Fair Shares, Feed the Hungry and many more. These provided an essential lifeline for those shielding or self-isolating.

Gloucester City Council found that as a result of this scheme, many neighbours have built relationships as well as shop and cook together.



Norwich City Council adapting support to community groups

The council has strong community links and had co-designed a web platform (www.lumi.org.uk) providing resources and support on undertaking community action, showcasing what was happening at a local level.

The site quickly added a Covid-19 section and officers worked with new and existing groups to ensure all services and adaptations to services were included. There was a section on developing new mutual aids with a dedicated officer to support and proactively contact new groups we heard about to offer help, and regular stories were shared to inspire others.

Residents and officers used the site to find suitable local support for those they spoke to, meaning far fewer needed interventions from the council directly. Many of these mutual aid groups are continuing to thrive and are being supported to continue into the future.



SUPPORT VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Lincoln City Council's Befriending Scheme

The City of Lincoln Council has been proactive with engaging with vulnerable residents during the Covid-19 crisis. The Council identified early the need for services to protect the mental well-being of the elderly and other residents who were suffering extreme social isolation. The council launched a telephone befriending scheme that linked up elderly residents who are more at risk of isolation and loneliness with council homeworkers and contacted over 18,000 residents.

This scheme is already proving to be a vital service to support the most vulnerable sectors of society at a time when they are feeling particularly afraid and alone. It is a great example of re-deploying council resources very quickly to meet an emerging community need.

Due to the council's close links with communities across the city they identified early on in the Covid-19 outbreak that there was the need for a service to protect the wellbeing of those residents aged 70 and over in the city, many of whom live alone.

Within days of launching the scheme, the council allocated more than 1,100 residents to 22 members of council staff, who were able to start making initial calls to make residents aware of the new service and ask if they would like to take part. The council ensured that there was consistency with the calls by having the same council worker call the same residents.

The skill of the council's befrienders is that they have been able to identify a number residents who were immediately in need of additional support in the home and have arranged further assistance. This highlights that the service is already helping those in need who may have slipped under the radar at this difficult time.

Watford Borough Council harnessing identity through Watford Helps charities appeal

The council harnessed its sense of place to generate financial support for the local voluntary sector to continue with their essential work supporting residents.

Auctions, sponsored walks, raffles, donations from the business community and a weekly quiz hosted by the Mayor and football legend Luther Blissett raised over £156,000 which has been shared with over 40 local charities such as the Peace Hospice, homelessness charity New Hope, Watford Womens Centre, Watford Foodbank and many others.

A creative social media campaign used a host of stars with a Watford connection to support the campaign including rugby player Maro Itoje, 80s pop icon Limahl, England footballer Kelly Smith and actor Mark Bonnar.

East Suffolk District Council's Rough Sleeper's Support

When the Government announced that it wanted all rough sleepers off the street in a matter of days, district and borough councils across the UK stepped up to the challenge. Each council has extraordinary case studies outlining their efforts to get rough sleepers into emergency accommodation.

East Suffolk District Council is one of the many councils that rose to the challenge to provide fast support for people sleeping rough in the area. The Council provided emergency accommodation primarily through its own housing stock and worked with local partners to provide essentials such as white goods, food parcels and furniture. The Council also brought part of a sheltered scheme back into use in record time, providing self-contained rooms for residents previously living in a night shelter with shared sleeping areas.

This quick strategy was possible due to the quick work of the Council's Housing Needs, Tenancy Services and Repairs and Maintenance teams and its local partner network. The Council continues to work closely with external partners and the community to protect the vulnerable but also to plan for long-term, sustainable accommodation, and has already assisted 26 of the initial 38 people housed under the 'Everyone In' initiative into longer-term accommodation with appropriate support.

Cambridge City Council action plan to support rough sleepers into longer term accommodation

Since the start of the Coronavirus lockdown, the council and its partners in the community have found safe accommodation for more than 140 people who had been sleeping rough or were at risk of homelessness. These people were given self-isolating accommodation at properties owned by the council, hoteliers, colleges and some private landlords.

The council has since been working with a range of organisations to find longer term solutions for these people and has already been successful in a number of cases. Now it is implementing a plan to continue this support that includes:

- conducting assessments of individuals' support and accommodation needs and assessing the help partners can continue to offer;
- continuing help for people with a range of needs, some of which are extremely complex, to make the most of the accommodation options that are available including hostels, pods and housing association leased pods.

Sevenoaks District Council launch the Care for our Community Scheme

The council took forward an idea generated from within the community to provide a service to verify and provide ID badges to a team of 1,500 volunteers across the district.

A website was developed, and a customer solutions team engaged to receive requests from residents.

Operating 7am to 7pm for 16 weeks and linking to community leaders in towns and parishes across the district, more than 1,500 requests for support from vulnerable and locked-down residents were managed, from food shopping and collecting prescriptions to walking dogs and critically befriending services. The council is now focussed now on creating a legacy that retains this incredible volunteering effort for the benefit of our District and are doing so in partnership with local community organisations.

Gedling Borough council leading the local humanitarian response

In March 2020 the council rapidly established a new Giving for Gedling service was in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The team was comprised of redeployed staff working together to provide support to vulnerable residents.

The Council's conference centre became the main headquarters for the local humanitarian response to the coronavirus outbreak. It became a super food bank, guided in its set up through partnerships with local Food Banks and Church Leaders. Since the Hub opened in March 2020, local volunteers and staff have dispatched 1267 food parcels. Fresh food has been produced on-site for inclusion in each parcel by local catering company.

Alongside this the council established a volunteer registration portal on its website which saw 520 volunteers registering, offering assistance with food parcel packing and delivery and telephone befriending.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT FOR SHIELDED

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council: Food & Wellbeing Buddy Scheme

As the Government outlined a 'Shielding' list of those most vulnerable to Covid-19, there were many plans put in place to support that group. However, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council quickly became aware of a cohort of vulnerable adults who fall through the filter of the shielded description, this is the group the Food & Wellbeing Buddy scheme focused on because it would otherwise be neglected.

The Emergency Food Parcel delivery system was quickly established by the Council, which not only delivered food but referrals to the scheme were triaged to ascertain wider support needs. As a result of growing referrals under the food delivery scheme needing further support, the Council founded the Food & Wellbeing Buddy Scheme, which looked at a more holistic support network for vulnerable individuals.

Volunteers who took part in the scheme were DBS and Risk assessed, trained and provided with safety protocols, ID's, and information handbooks.

In addition to the success of the programme, the Council recognises this scheme has potential to scale and grow and be sustainable in the long-term to continue to help vulnerable residents even after the height of Covid-19.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

Stevenage Borough Council – Covid Secure Status

Stevenage Borough Council has been proactive in helping businesses to reopen but also meet the necessary measures to creating a safe environment. The Council has adopted the Covid Secure Status assessment that helps outline key steps a business should take. In order for a business to be Covid Secure, the following steps must be met:

- We have carried out a Covid-19 risk assessment and shared the results with the people who work here
- We have cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures in line with guidance
- We have taken all reasonable steps to help people work from home
- We have taken all reasonable steps to maintain a 2m distance in the workplace
- Where people cannot be 2m apart, we have done everything practical to manage transmission risk

By helping businesses become safer, the Council plays a key role in supporting not only the businesses in a tough time but ensuring employees have the right support.

Lancaster City Council – Business Support Hub

Lancaster City Council has launched a Business Support Hub with the aim of helping the local economy recover from the effects of Covid and protecting and strengthening it for the future.

The Hub, which is being delivered in conjunction with the council's economic partners, provides businesses with advice on how to reduce pressures that have accumulated as a result of Covid, with a focus on recovery and long-term resilience.

Support is on offer for every business that needs it and adapts to the needs of each to create maximum impact, with the aim of creating local wealth, jobs, skills and distinctiveness.

As well as advice on reopening safely, businesses can take advantage of services such as coaching and mentoring, access to funding, advice on financial planning, support for digital developments, and resilience grants, primarily for those businesses that haven't qualified for other government funding schemes.

The Hub plays a vital role in rolling out information and guidance during an unprecedented time and helping the businesses to adapt for the long-term. The business resilience support includes help with upskilling, reskilling, online effectiveness, and training.

With an eye on the council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, there is also a focus on helping businesses to become more environmentally sustainable.

A virtual high street is also being developed to amplify awareness of local retailers, connecting them with shoppers, keeping money in the local economy.

The role businesses play in the local community will also be celebrated through events and awards, to build confidence and provide networking opportunities.

Sevenoaks District Council establishes a business board to drive recovery

In response to the new pressures being faced in the local economy the council has launched a new Business Board. The board is attended by business leaders from businesses large and small, across a wide array of services and sectors and business young and old. Making use of remote meeting technology, the council has made a conscious decision to make the meetings 1 hour long. Each meeting has a single focus, just one question to answer. Contributions from

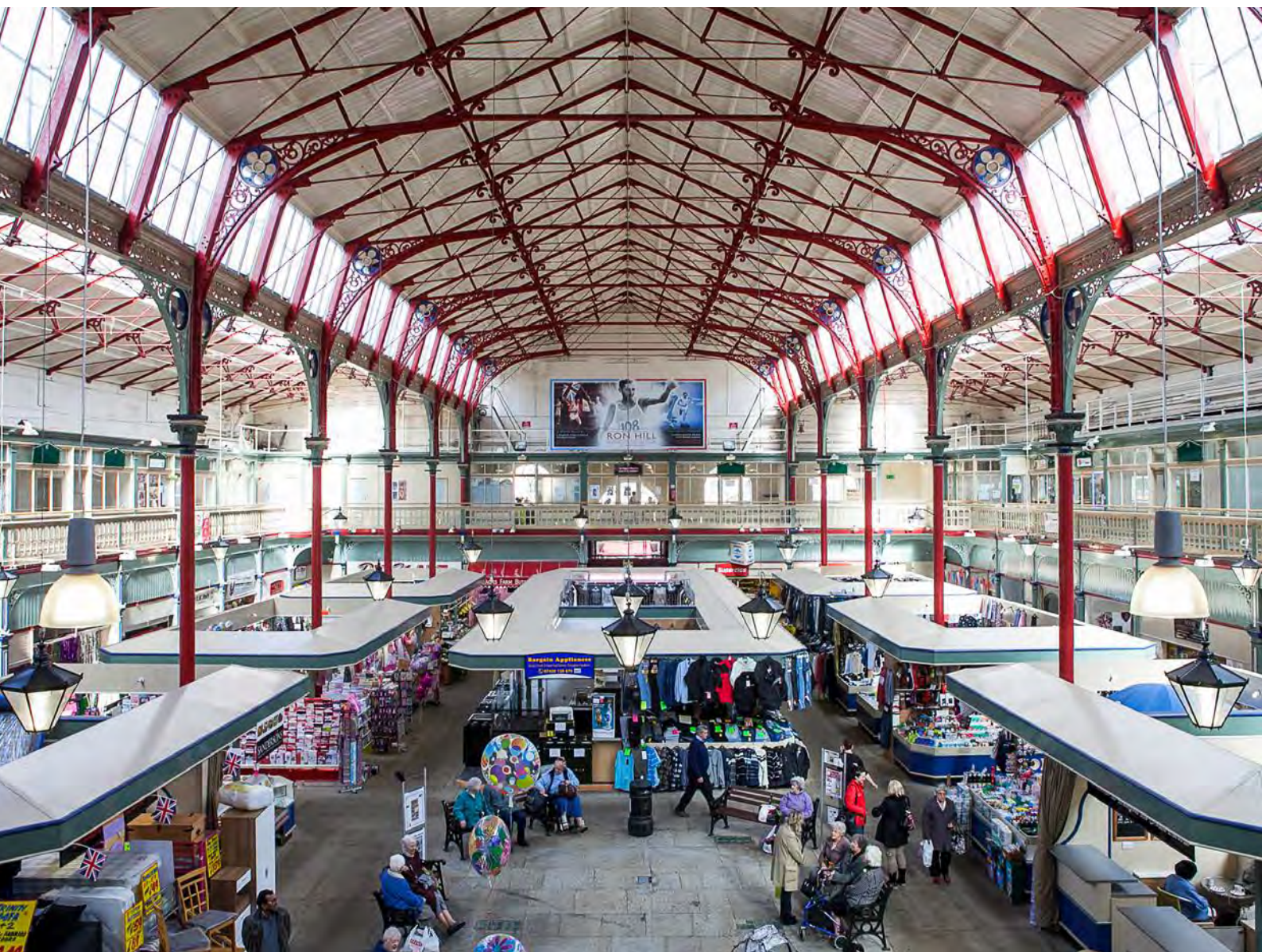
attendees allow us to quickly identify their priorities and make a plan to take action. The response from businesses has been overwhelmingly positive and will shape our economic action plan now and in the future.

South Lakeland District Council launch consultation with residents and businesses to shape post-Covid future

Residents have been invited to have their say on a major plan that will shape South Lakeland's post-Coronavirus future.

The council is taking the opportunity to re-start its engagement work on the Local Plan review, which considers everything from what employment and housing the area needs to tackling climate change and how special landscapes can be protected.

The council is now keen to hear how people think the experience and impacts of the Coronavirus crisis should influence the long-term plan, which guides council policies for the next 10 years and beyond.





SUPPORT FOR PLACES AND HIGH STREET ADAPTATION

Cheltenham Borough Council – Reopening High Streets

There is no doubt that each town and high street faces challenges in reopening, especially as a lot of high streets were suffering before Covid-19 even hit us. Despite this, places like Cheltenham Borough Council have adapted to the new safety demands and come up with innovative solutions.

Cheltenham Borough Council has changed Regent Street, one of its busiest areas in central Cheltenham, removing as much traffic as possible to allow restaurants, pubs and cafes to extend onto the pavement. This change will give people more space to shop and enjoy the town, without feeling nervous about being too close to others. Additionally, these changes hope to test the long-term appetite for outside eating and enjoyment. Cheltenham have also allowed hospitality business in the town to build temporary structures to accommodate customers safely without the need for planning permission.

The challenge for the hospitality sector has been to be able to reopen and offer services, without compromising on health and safety. This strategy allows businesses the room to open and make a more inviting atmosphere for shoppers.

Ashfield District Council – Two Hour Free Parking

Ashfield District Council is looking ahead to long-term recovery for towns and high streets and in doing so, has decided to implement two-hour free parking in the town centre from September 2020.

The Council's Cabinet Member for Streets, Parks and Town Centres, Cllr David Martin, has highlighted that this recommendation was put forward in order to support businesses and attract people into town centres.

The two hours free parking is part of the Council's ongoing plans to regenerate our town centres and make them desirable places to shop and visit.

With so many people shopping locally during lockdown our town centres have already seen an increase in shoppers. With two hours free parking the Council hopes that residents will continue to support local businesses and see our town centres thrive.

Malvern Hills District Councils – Support for Reopening the High Street

Malvern Hills District Council has outlined ways for residents to stay S.A.F.E:

Sanitising and washing their hands regularly

Always being kind and considerate to others

Following social distancing guidelines

Enjoying our environment but making sure they take litter home with them or put it in the bins provided

In addition to these guidelines, the Council wants to encourage walking and cycling by installing bike racks and creating an electric bike hire scheme. They have created a dedicated town centre recovery officer, have developed new trails and outdoor art exhibits to support tourism while many indoor attractions remain closed or restricted. They are also running a video-based shop local campaign allowing businesses to promote themselves on Council social media channels.

Colchester City Council leading the town centre recovery

The lockdown galvanised the council and business networks which were established to develop Colchester's £25million town deal bid.

Within hours a Covid-19 website offered trusted sources of information to business. The Colchester Business Enterprise Agency was granted £9,450 providing crisis business support, delivering a 52% increase in appointments with companies of all life-stages and sectors.

A further £20,000 is supporting resilience, adaptation and recovery, aided by the expansion of Gigabit broadband enabling business innovation and free trials of 25 e-cargo delivery bikes to mitigate carbon footprint. A Town Centre Task Force created Covid-compliant spaces to provide access to the daytime and night-time economies.

KEEPING SERVICES RUNNING

Rugby Borough Council: Foodbank Support

At the beginning of lockdown, Rugby Foodbank faced the threat of closure because of health and safety concerns of volunteers and pressures of Covid-19. Rugby Borough Council agreed to step in and arranged with the Rugby Foodbank to take on the services of the Foodbank whilst they could not deliver the services.

During the handover, there was no disruption in services and the Foodbank kindly provided Rugby Borough Council with their stock and the council managed to deliver food to the residents most in need.

Rugby Borough Council's Leader Cllr Sebastian Lowe said "Supporting our vulnerable residents has been a key component of the council's response to the coronavirus pandemic, and for many, Rugby Foodbank provides a vital service. We were keen to reach an agreement with Hope4 to ensure that the foodbank remained operational during a critical period of the pandemic, and we're pleased the charity and its volunteers can now return to take over the reins. I'd like to thank the council staff who worked so hard to keep the foodbank running, many of whom were juggling shifts at the foodbank with regular duties."





Harborough District Council: Continuation of waste services

Like all services, waste collection has faced extraordinary pressures during these unprecedented times. Despite this, 89 per cent of councils continue to operate normal residual/landfill waste with the remainder still in operation but with minor disruption, even during the height of the lockdown.

Harborough District Council has managed to continue services with little interruption by working closely with partners, adapting to Covid-safety needs and communicating with residents. In order to keep its recycling and waste services going, Harborough District Council implemented social distancing and one-in-one-out principle in its depot and provided all staff with the correct PPE to carry out their duties safely.

According to its Leader, Cllr Phil King, the daily reports on staff sickness helped monitor the capabilities of the services and allowed for adaptations to take place to ensure as little disruption as possible. Cllr King added that by strategically reducing grounds maintenances and street cleaning, groups of staff could be isolated and protected to be called upon if waste and recycling teams needed more staff.

RECOVERY AND KEEPING GROWTH

Wychavon District Council - Recovery Framework Plan and Apprenticeship Support

Wychavon District Council designed a Recovery Plan which is designed to act as a framework as it supports the local economy, community and Wychavon as an organisation as it emerges from the Coronavirus Pandemic. The plan has four key elements, the community and the local economy; resetting the business of the council; recovery of the organisation and councillors as well as democracy.

This is a living document that will evolve as the emergent economic and social landscape changes but Wychavon District Council believes it was crucial to provide staff, councillors, businesses and the community the confidence that they are well positioned to provide across the board support for the challenges that they face moving forwards.

Within the Recovery Framework Plan, the council has outlined a section on job support and reskilling, which follows on to the Council's Apprenticeship Support scheme. New bursaries have been made available by Wychavon to encourage young people across the district to enroll in an apprenticeship.

The aim of the bursaries is to encourage more people to consider an apprenticeship as a viable career choice and help them overcome cost barriers. More apprenticeship qualifications are being made available and some industries now offer degree level apprenticeships, which provide work experience while studying for a degree.

Wychavon is mindful that other organisations will look towards the Council as they develop their own recovery plans and it was therefore important that we seek to set out a "gold standard" for others in our locality as they move into the future.

North West Leicestershire District Council – Growth Hub

North West Leicestershire District Council, in partnership with the Business Gateway, have set up Growth Hub to support businesses deal with the challenges surrounding Covid. This Hub offers businesses access to webinars so that employers and employees can develop their knowledge and skills, whilst working remotely.

Topics coming up include introduction to pricing, the science of personal productivity, contingency planning, purpose and strategy, company values in a crisis, cloud accounting and online networking.

A new series of webinars has also been developed with the Business Gateway and other East Midlands Growth Hubs working together to offer free weekly 'Building Business Resilience' webinars and a new RESTART programme of one-to-one sessions, to help local businesses restart smoothly and successfully post Covid-19 crisis.

North Devon District Council support for hospitality businesses reopening

The council introduced an advice programme for helping all local businesses understand how to safely reopen and to adapt their offer to grow their business – on everything from food safety, social distancing, to waste and car parking.

The council has launched this service alongside a campaign encourages residents to shop, buy and eat locally, thereby injecting money into the local economy to help it recover from the damage caused during the coronavirus pandemic.

This includes making lifestyle choices that will help protect the natural environment in North Devon; taking advantage of the shops, restaurants and leisure facilities on our doorstep reduces the impact on our environment.

The campaign provides a single strong brand which is promoted across the local economy and out into the community through the local groups and business forums.

Stroud District Council shaping a new future for market towns

The council is working in close partnership with parish and town councils and local chambers of commerce to promote safe visits to our main market towns across the district, boosting business and helping economic recovery.

The council is just completing a highly successful six week 'shop local' campaign, in partnership with local businesses, which has generated huge interest on social media. And is now building on the relationships made to develop a comprehensive market towns strategy with partners, helping to re-define and boost

vitality of our market towns and support the transition to a low carbon future.

Warwick District Council launched Community Economic Recovery Fund

The council has made funding available to help support community organisations through the 'recovery' phase, focused on enabling them to deliver essential services to vulnerable people most impacted by Covid-19 in keeping with Government guidance. Grants of up to £3,000 are available to organisations who have a role in supporting the Warwick District community during this time. The new funding is targeted at not-for profit groups such as local registered charities, foodbanks and community groups who are experiencing short-term financial hardship, have ceased operations or have had to adapt or increase their service due to the pandemic.

Chelmsford City Council engagement with business on local recovery

In May the council sent a business recovery survey to over 3,000 SMEs, many of whom had applied for the Government funded business support grants. With close to 50% of respondents indicating that they did not expect to be trading in 12 months' time, the council has used the responses to connect with its business support partners agencies (Colbea, BEST Growth Hub, and Back to Business) to match support to business need, as the local economy seeks to recover.

Malvern Hills District Council campaign to help young people build life skills

A new campaign was launched to encourage young people across the Malvern Hills District to gain valuable life skills. Malvern Hills District Council has partnered with Malvern Youth Advisory Network to deliver 'Futureproof' which ran from 13 to 26 July.

The campaign is being championed by the council's new Youth Chair and Advisors and is aimed at 11 to 17-year-olds. It will encourage young people to build resilience and feel part of the community, as well as help them gain valuable life skills.

A range of different topics will be covered from budgeting and mindfulness to coping with exam stress and cooking healthy meals. Futureproof will be promoted on a new webpage, as well as through videos, posts and activities on social media.

ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Broxtowe Borough Council- Local Climate Action

The Council has beaten targets set in the last Carbon Management Plan 2009/10 (10-year plan) to reduce its CO2 emissions by 34% by 2020. The Council achieved 45% reduction by the end of March 2019. Over 32,000 litres of fuel saved through reorganising the refuse rounds as the number of properties and population grows. Over 58% reduction in business mileage since 2011 which was done through agile working arrangements. Additionally, this has reduced home to work mileage and business mileage further along with improving wellbeing reducing sickness.

The Council has also planted over 100,000 trees, including the creation of pocket orchards introduced in allotments. Green/Blue infrastructure enhanced further through meadow planting, introduction of ponds to created greater biodiversity and link corridors.

Wealden District Council- Localising Medical Care

Negotiations are under way with the local CCG and the four GP practices serving Hailsham residents to provide a modern, more centrally located medical centre. The intention is to accommodate new post-Covid clinical approaches to primary care provision and expand the range of services to what is set to be the key growth town for East Sussex as a whole. Collaboration and innovation are essential pillars of this approach in conjunction with a wider regeneration programme led by Wealden District Council to create a healthy, green, climate change friendly modern market town to act as a vibrant destination for visitors and local people. www.hailshamaspires.co.uk



Epping Forest District Councils co-designing the health recovery

The council has engaged 350 residents living in estates where the impact of Covid-19 has been most significant, placing them at forefront of co-designing initiatives to support local recovery.

Socially distanced doorstep conversations were undertaken to hear residents' own stories. The experiences of residents, including the availability and ease of access to key services, were shared with strategic stakeholders from across the whole system.

Key themes identified included; deteriorating mental health, physical inactivity, poor community resilience and dissatisfaction with the neighbourhood environment.

The community themselves will work alongside agencies to reimagine services moving forwards.

Harborough District Council promoting good health across the lockdown

The council adapted its exercise referral programme to serve those residents who are more at risk due to COVID with a large majority being required to shield, by developing a self-help page, and developing a programme of online sessions supporting people to stay connected and active.

The council also worked with hospitals and health partners to adapt its targeted intervention programmes for getting cancer patients fit for surgery and supporting cardiac patients. Working with health-based instructors, they have to put in place a safe and progressive strategy to keep individuals active during this time, often providing advice/support around home-based exercise through video calling. Moving forwards, the council are now in a position to be able to start slowly encouraging individuals back into activity and will be working with our instructors to provide outdoor based closed group sessions.

Hertsmere District council leading the social response and recovery

The council provided additional funding of £10k to communities through the Volunteer Compassionate Community Connector programme in response to Covid-19. The assistance is for people who are healthy and at low risk to volunteer to help others across the district.

The council also released 10 members of staff to support the register and vet potential volunteers. Volunteers were then matched with request for support from vulnerable members of the community. Practical Support requests include shopping, prescription collections, pet sitting, urgent supplies and newly created walking buddy scheme.

Alongside this the council worked with partners to establish health and social care hubs, providing free lifestyle support for individuals and their families covering mental health, physical activity, weight management, smoking cessation, health MOTs and nutritional advice.

CONCLUSION

Districts have proven that they have the local knowledge, networks and understanding to deliver during even the most challenging of times. It is through the connection to residents and local representation that allows districts to mobilise in the most efficient way, continuing the delivery of services all the while supporting residents.

Districts have shown not only efficiency but innovation whilst delivering during Covid-19, and with specific support from Government, can continue to do so in a sustainable way. Although these councils have taken huge steps during this health emergency, the Government needs to:

- Engage and support districts to control the virus, responding to the needs and opportunities for residents and businesses across communities
- Back districts success in delivery to protect jobs and deliver the recovery through greater devolution across growth, health, employment and skills
- Provide medium term financial stability and certainty so to protect and stabilise the existing local delivery knowledge and capacity



For more information visit

<https://districtcouncils.info/>

Contact us at dcn@local.gov.uk