

Members Weekly Briefing

Weekly Roundup – 27 November 2020

Welcome to this week's briefing with the latest key messages and COVID-19 update.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- The national COVID lockdown ends at 00:01 on 2 December.
- Hambleton and the rest of North Yorkshire will move immediately into tier two restrictions. This means:
 - You must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
 - You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space.
 - You can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.
- The Civic Centre and Leisure Centres will reopen on Wednesday 2 December in line with government guidance.
- Members should continue not to attend the Civic Centre at this time other than for formal meetings
- Council and Cabinet will be held in the Council Chamber, with members being able to dial in via Teams if they prefer.

COVID-19 TESTING

- A walk in Covid-19 testing centre is being set up in the Hambleton Forum car park. The test centre is being set up today and will begin a pilot operation on Saturday afternoon.
- From Sunday the centre will be open for testing from 8am – 10pm, every day but people must book a test in advance.
- The centre will remain open throughout the Christmas period, albeit with reduced hours on the bank holidays.
- Security will be present 24/7.

- Testing will be carried out in modular buildings that will be erected on-site.
- Mobile testing units (MTU) are being established on a rota basis at the Sports Club on Great Broughton Road in Stokesley (Monday) and at the Football Club on Stillington Road in Easingwold (Friday) these will start from next week on a weekly basis.
- There will also be an MTU operational in Thirsk shortly too.

BUSINESS SUPPORT - Additional Restrictions Grant (Discretionary)

- This grant launched yesterday.
- The scheme is aimed at providing financial support to businesses unable to access the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) scheme whilst Hambleton is placed under national lockdown or COVID Alert Level Tier 3 (Very High) restrictions anytime from 5 November until the end of the 2021/2022 financial year.
- We have been awarded £1,831,880 for the ARG scheme. The payment is for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years and the Council will not receive additional funding if we are subject to a further national lockdown or imposed local restrictions. This is a limited resource so we may not be able to support everyone.
- The grant allocations for the current period (05.11.20 – 02.12.20) of lockdown are shown below. One grant will be awarded to each business if they meet the eligibility criteria and the amount awarded will be determined by assessing the combined impact of fixed costs and loss of income.
 - £500
 - £1,334
 - £2,000
 - £3,000

BUSINESS SUPPORT – The Test & Trace Self Isolation Support Payment

- The Test and Trace Self Isolation Support Payment scheme was introduced by the Government on 28 September to support people with low incomes who are unable to work due to self-isolating as they've tested positive for COVID-19, or because they've been identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of someone else who has.
- The Test and Trace Support Scheme went live on 12 October where people may be eligible for £500 and the Council administers the scheme on behalf of the Department of Health & Social Care.

- There are two elements to the Test and Trace Support Scheme, the Mandatory Scheme with a fund of £28,000 and a Discretionary Scheme with a fund of £17,089.63.
- As of 20 November, 39 mandatory scheme cases had been paid out totalling £19,500 and 24 discretionary scheme cases had been paid out totalling £12,000.
- North Yorkshire County Council, on behalf of Public Health England, and Hambleton District Council's Benefits Team, share contact information through a Data Sharing Agreement where the National Test and Trace system is unable to contact someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

BUSINESS SUPPORT – Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed)*

*note the terminology “closed” refers to the government’s name for the scheme and is not a reference to unavailability of the scheme

- Businesses subject to national restrictions from 5 November may be entitled to financial support through the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum scheme.
- Funding of £2.04m has been provided from Government to support those businesses forced to close for the 28-day period to 2 December in the following bands dependent on the businesses’ rateable value:
 - Up to and including £15,000 - £1,334
 - Between £15,001 and £50,999 - £2,000
 - Above and including £51,000 - £3,000
- More information for our scheme is available on the website https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20038/health_and_wellbeing/1043/coronavirus_covid-19/6 and the scheme is now Live and applications are being processed.
- The number of applications currently being assessed is 601.
- 200 applications have been paid.

FREE CAR PARKING

- Car parking will be free in all council car parks across our district from 2 December until 3 January.

Thank you everyone, enjoy the weekend and stay safe.