

# E-Newsletter – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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## **1) Information Corner**

**\* Southend, Basildon, Castle Point and Thurrock will move into Tier 3 coronavirus restrictions from midnight Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 \***

### **Revised Collection Days - Christmas 2020**

Over the Christmas period your collection day may change. Please help Southend Borough Council to keep our neighbourhood clean and tidy by only putting your recycling and waste out for collection on your revised collection day.

Real Christmas trees will be collected for composting on your scheduled collection day between 5 January and 29 January 2021. Please remove all decorations and leave on the edge of your property.

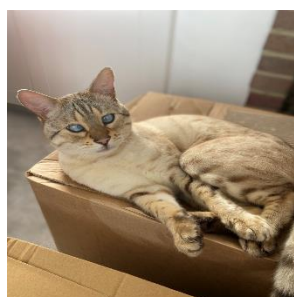
### **Household Recycling and Waste Collections**

<b>Revised Collection Dates for Households</b>	
<b>Normal Collection Day</b>	<b>Revised Collection Day</b>
Thursday 24 December	No Change
Friday 25 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December

Revised Collection Dates for Households	
Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January

### Lost Cat – Kimi

Missing from Parkanaur Avenue since 13<sup>th</sup> December. Chipped and neutered, very chatty, blue eyes. Reward offered for return. If you have seen Kimi please call 07482 908 258.



### Have your say on funding for policing and fire and rescue services in Essex PFCC Precept Survey is closing soon.

There are just a few days to go for you to complete our survey and have your say on funding for policing and fire rescue services in Essex. Do you want more investment in the services and what are your priorities? Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex needs to know before he sets out plans for the 2021/2022 policing and fire and rescue services budget for the county.

You can fill in a survey at <https://essexpfcc.limequery.com> and click on Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex Precept Survey 2020 to give your views.

Roger said: “I need to know what your thoughts on funding for the services are. To do this I have been running a survey to gather views. That survey closes at midnight on December 20th and it is so important that you complete it and have your say.

“I know it’s a difficult time for you financially. The COVID 19 pandemic has been a horrible crisis and had a big impact on livelihoods. So, any plans to increase the council tax need to be considered very carefully.”

### School Streets launched to improve air quality and promote active travel

Two Southend-on-Sea primary schools are supporting the Council with an innovative scheme aimed at promoting active travel and improving air quality near our schools.

School Streets is a new pilot scheme which restricts access to motor vehicles on the road outside the two pilot primary schools – Greenways and Leigh North Street - during school drop-off and pick-up times throughout school term time.

School traffic and through traffic will not be allowed during these times, but school staff will be able to access the schools, and residents that live within the restricted area have been supplied with permit stickers to allow access. The council trained school staff – known as School Street Marshals - to deploy and collect the School Street barriers and follow strict health and safety training.

The idea behind the scheme is to reduce carbon emissions being omitted from motor vehicles outside of schools and to promote other forms of active travel, such as cycling or walking to school.

The experimental traffic regulation order came into effect Monday 23 November and will be in operation Monday to Friday between 8:15am – 9:15am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm at Greenways, and 8:30am – 9:30am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm at North Street, term time only, for the next 12 months.

This initiative is being funded through the Department for Transport (DfT) Emergency Active Travel Funding.

Two further primary schools will also start up the scheme in January following detailed assessments, with further announcements to be made in the coming weeks. The council has adopted a staggered approach to the launch of this scheme to ensure all schools involved have suitable support for their respective launches.

Cllr Ron Woodley, cabinet member for transport, said: “The School Streets project will not only encourage active travel such as cycling and walking and result in a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment for all, but will also allow more space for safe social distancing.

“We will be piloting outside these two schools for the next 12 months to allow us to see the impact throughout the various seasons of the year. Our hope is to roll this out to other schools if the pilot proves successful. It is important to note that this scheme is only viable on residential roads, so as not to have a huge impact on traffic flow in and out of the town at busy times.

“I am confident these schools will see the benefits of this project, and I look forward to seeing the impact this will have on air quality in the areas over the coming months.”

### **Council is new owner of Victoria Shopping Centre**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has bought the Victoria Shopping Centre for £10m, demonstrating its commitment to the future of Southend town centre and giving it a significant property ownership stake in the High Street for the first time.

The purchase demonstrates the Council’s long-term commitment to the town centre and presents opportunities to drive changes to the centre and help the regeneration

of the High Street. The price the Council is paying, having been up against a number of other bidders, reflects the market conditions and the significant challenges around retail, and is below the original asking price. The centre last changed hands in 2016 for over £24m.

Funding for the purchase will come from the council's current £22.3m strategic and regeneration acquisitions budget. The council has sought detailed and specialist retail, legal and financial advice from experts in these sectors, and will be using a specialist retail asset manager to manage the shopping centre on its behalf.

Cllr Ron Woodley, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for transport, capital and inward investment says: "This move is a big boost for the local economy and an exciting move by the council.

"The Victoria Centre is key strategic property acquisition for us. While the income will cover the borrowing cost of buying it, its strategic value is what's important to us.

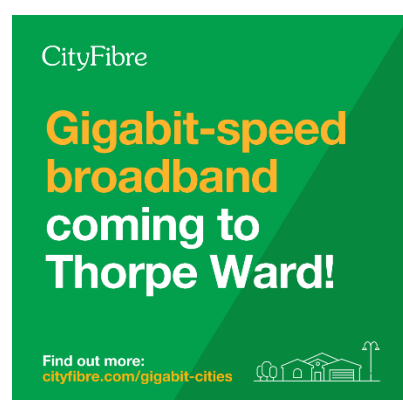
"It offers future regeneration benefits and a real opportunity to make a positive impact on the High Street and town centre area.

In the short term, the Council will look at ways to increase footfall and drive up occupancy levels through short-term tenancies. This will provide opportunities for start-ups, relocating businesses, or artists' studios for example.

"There is also significant opportunity to improve the main point of entry to the High Street and the gateway to our town. The Council is committed to creating opportunity and prosperity in our Borough and although times are tough and may get tougher, the council is committed to the long-term future of the town centre."

## CityFibre

This is another one that we have been pushing, which Ron started when he was Leader of the Council. This will mean an increase in property prices and should be completed by June 2021, all dependent on the current restrictions.



## Southend Council - Toy Drive: There's still time to donate

Council elves have been hard at work coordinating and wrapping gifts for the council's annual Toy Drive to provide some Christmas joy for vulnerable children across Southend.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated. Remember, anyone still wishing to donate needs to do so **by Friday 18 December**. We are grateful for all donations made; however, we are specifically in need of gifts for older boys. We are unable to accept individual donations at the Civic Centre this year, but you can buy a gift from any of the following local shops below, leave it with them in store and we will arrange the rest.

Argosy Toys – 553 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 9LJ [www.argosytoys.co.uk](http://www.argosytoys.co.uk)

Toys n Tuck – 1 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, and Essex, SS1 1LT

If you prefer online shopping or are unable to get to the shops, check out Argosy Toys website. At the point of check out please choose the option of Toy Drive as your delivery option. This will allow your purchase to be sent direct to us without leaving your home or workplace.

The gifts will be left for 72 hours before being sanitised and expertly wrapped by the council's elves.

The Toy Drive, now in its seventh year, is an annual project set up by the Council to gift Christmas presents to vulnerable children who may not have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas like most, with the gifts being distributed to local children's centres, food banks, refuges and children's parties set up by local charities.

If you are a company, charity or school and wish to donate more than one gift that you need collecting or wish to drop off, please contact us on the details below in order for us to run through the new procedure to ensure you and our staff are kept safe and social distance measures are maintained at all times.

If you have any questions, please call Lorraine on 01702 215481 or email [elfforessex@southend.gov.uk](mailto:elfforessex@southend.gov.uk)

### What can you donate?

New toys only, suitable for babies, boys and girls aged up to 17 (if any toys require batteries, please include these too)

Vouchers for toys or days out

Selection packs

Pens, pencils and colouring books

Toiletry sets

Each year the council's elves get prepared at the Civic Grotto to try and break previous records for the number of gifts donated. However, they are fully aware that following the unprecedented challenges the country has faced this year, the focus is now for residents and businesses to support the Toy Drive in any way they can.

The Toy Drive has proven to be a huge success since its inaugural year and has grown in popularity. Over the past seven years, 7,034 gifts have been donated to vulnerable children in Southend.

## **Possible Scams**

### **a) Online pop up**

We have been contacted by a member concerning an old scam that is circulating again. The member was caught out by it about five years ago and it has happened recently to a friend of his.

You buy something on line from a legitimate company and when you enter your card details as payment, a "pop up" appears asking if you would like a discount on your next purchase. Most people assume it is from the company that you are dealing with and click on yes/agree.

What you are in fact doing is agreeing to join a discount club (all perfectly legal), they then take a fee from your card account of 10 /15 pounds every month. A reasonably small amount which a lot of people do not notice on their statements and it can add up to a lot over time.

As it is not illegal the members bank said they could not stop the payments and he had to cancel his card eventually.

### **b) Gumtree**

Please see below a message that we received from another member.

'We were clearing our loft so we put a few items on Gumtree for sale to get rid of them. We had an e mail from TERESA who wanted to buy one item and asked if we could post it if she paid the postage. Then another email asking if we could call her after 3pm to discuss the sale. Then more emails saying she would buy everything we had up for sale, please call. I looked up the number 07850123105 and the number is marked 'dangerous' on phone tracking sites. Apparently this person gets you to call, pretends to want your goods and then either asks for bank account details so she can pay you, or she keeps you talking while you incur premium phone charges. Watch out for this sort of thing on Gumtree or E bay'.

## **Potholes number one road complaint**

A new survey by the RAC suggests pothole-plagued local roads are the UK's most widespread motoring concern. Other issues include visibility of signage, roadside litter and maintenance of verges and foliage. LGA transport spokesperson, said: "Despite the pandemic, councils have been working hard to fix potholes and repair road surfaces as well as supporting the increase in cycling infrastructure through temporary road measures. Extra government funding has helped but our local roads are deteriorating at a faster rate than can be repaired by councils."

But Ron's got a plan..... Next financial year will see the 'search and fix' back again!

## **Essex Police Fraud Alert System - BEWARE OF VACCINATION SCAMS**

With the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine beginning this week, residents are warned of criminals seeking to exploit the pandemic further.

### Fake Text Messages & Calls

Basildon has been one of the worst affected areas in Essex for Coronavirus and as a result, scammers have been targeting residents with fake text messages. Essex Trading Standards have warned that the messages ask residents to click a link in order to book their vaccination, before proceeding to take personal details and payment requests.

### **The Covid-19 vaccination is free and you will never be asked for payment.**

In other parts of the country, people have also received phone calls to book non-existent 'vaccine appointments'. They are asked to confirm their booking by pressing a number on their phone which results in them being billed by their provider.

### 'VIP' vaccine tickets

Phishing scams continue to circulate, many now claiming to offer 'VIP' vaccination tickets that will allegedly put people at the head of the vaccination queue—for a price. Similar to the scams that have been seen throughout the pandemic, they will often ask you to click on a link or provide personal/banking details to pay for the ticket.

### **Remember—if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!**

The vaccine is currently being offered to those most at risk, particularly the elderly.

## **2) Temporary Road Closures**

### **a) Fairfax Drive, Westcliff-On-Sea - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for 1 week - Emergency Gas Repairs**

To facilitate emergency gas repairs; they have imposed a prohibition of traffic in Fairfax Drive Westcliff-On-Sea

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from:

Proceeding on Fairfax Drive between its junctions with Westbourne Grove & Southbourne Grove.

These prohibitions or restrictions came into effect on **12th December 2020**. It is anticipated that the works will last for **1 week**.

Whilst this section of Fairfax Drive is closed, an alternative route for traffic will be marked on site and resident's access will be maintained where possible.

**b) Queens Road, Leigh-On-Sea – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 till 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021-  
New gas connection.**

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from;

1. Proceeding into Queens Road between its junction with Avenue Road & Ashleigh Drive

2. Stopping, waiting, loading & unloading on Queens Road between its junction with Avenue Road & Ashleigh Drive

The closure is scheduled to commence on **11th January 2021 till 16th January 2021** or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative route will be via Avenue Road, Broadway & Ashleigh Drive and vice versa.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst new gas connection take place. Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

**c) Eastwood Boulevard, Westcliff-On-Sea, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 19:00 till 23:00 -  
Anglian Water replace a Frame & Cover**

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:

Entering and exiting Eastwood Boulevard between its junctions with Manchester Drive and Cavendish Gardens.

The closure is scheduled to commence on **18th January 2021 between the hours of 19:00 till 23:00** or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative route will be via Cavendish Gardens, Southbourne Grove & Kenilworth Gardens or Eastwood Boulevard, Kenilworth Gardens, Prittlewell Chase, Westbourne Grove, Fairfax Drive & Cavendish Gardens.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst Anglian Water replace a Frame & Cover.

Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

**d) Trinity Road, Southend-On-Sea – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 till 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
– New gas connection.**

To prohibit any vehicle from;

Parking, waiting, Loading & unloading on Trinity Road from its junction with Lonsdale Road to outside No103 & from No130 to No104 Trinity Road.



The closure is scheduled to commence on **6th January 2021 till 13th January 2021** or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The suspension is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst new gas connection works take place.

Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

### **3) A127 Major Works (A127 & the Bell Junction)**

#### **Southend Borough Council - Key milestone for Bell junction upgrade**

Work on the Bell Junction is progressing well, with the work for the new dedicated slip road onto Rochford Road set to commence in the new year.

The dedicated slip road is a major part of the £5m junction upgrade work, which will allow a greater number of vehicles travelling to London Southend Airport.

Construction of the new slip road is due to begin on **Monday 4 January** and is due to be completed at the end of February. The left turn onto Rochford Road will be closed until work on the slip road is complete.

Eurovia will commence deep drainage works in Rochford Road which requires a section of the road, near the A127 junction, to be closed and also requires A127 Southend bound lane one to be closed at the junction. This work is being undertaken over the weekend from **8pm Friday 15 January to 6:30 Monday 18 January** to minimise disruption to drivers.

Residents directly affected by the road closure area will be granted access, and a diversion route will be in place for all other traffic. Eurovia will continue to provide school crossing patrol officers at The Bell Junction during term times.

The £5m project aims to improve the traffic flow across this key junction into and out of the town centre. The majority of the funding for The Bell junction improvement (£4.3m) is from the Government's Local Growth Fund, with the remainder coming from the Council's Capital budget.

Cllr Ron Woodley, cabinet member for transport, capital and inward investment, said: "I am pleased to see work progressing well at the junction. Collaborative working between council officers and Eurovia has seen us begin work on one of the main changes to the junction – the dedicated slip road.

"This is a big milestone for the project and is something that will provide a real improvement to traffic flow and air quality in the area. Local residents have been kept updated and will continue to be so as we carry out this important section of the improvement work.

“Alongside the dedicated slip road, we will be carrying out work on the new pedestrian crossing for this section of the road.

“We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause local residents, and I would like to thank them for their understanding and support of the project so far.”

To find out more about the project, please visit [www.southend.gov.uk/thebell](http://www.southend.gov.uk/thebell)

## **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Application Number: 20/02008/CLP **Ward: Southchurch**  
Officer: Oliver Hart  
Dormer to rear to form habitable accommodation in roof space, rooflight to front  
(Lawful development certificate-proposed)  
**37 Vaughan Avenue Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02007/FUL **Ward: Thorpe**  
Officer: Kara Elliott  
Extend existing vehicular access onto Kensington Road  
**104A Kensington Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02010/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
Officer: Julie Ramsey  
Erect single storey rear extension  
**76 Huntingdon Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02055/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
Officer: Spyros Mouratidis  
Raised roof ridge height and form hipped to gable roof extension with glazed gable ends, dormers to side elevations to form habitable accommodation in roof and install rooflights to all elevations  
**62 Parkanaur Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 20/02059/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
Officer: Kara Elliott  
Install window to front elevation at first floor level, additional rooflight to side and convert loft space in to habitable accommodation, install bi-fold doors to rear and alter elevations  
**2 Dungannon Drive Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 20/02060/CLP **Ward: Thorpe**  
Officer: Julie Ramsey  
Hip to gable roof extension, dormer to rear to form habitable accommodation in roof space, install rooflights to front (Lawful development certificate-proposed)  
**16 Huntingdon Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/01868/FUL

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

Demolish existing beach hut and erect replacement beach hut

**Beach Hut 553 Shoebury Common Road Shoeburyness**

Application Number: 20/02045/FULH

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Kara Elliott

Erect single storey front and side extension, alter elevations

**8 Fitzwarren Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea**

## **5) List of Decisions Issued** **Week Ending 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

APPLN. NO: 20/01694/FULH

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT SINGLE STOREY OUTBUILDING TO REAR TO FORM RESIDENTIAL ANNEXE FOR ANCILLARY USE TO MAIN DWELLING (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

**15 PHILPOTT AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Refuse Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01719/FULH

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR INFILL EXTENSION, FORM HIPPED TO GABLE END ROOF EXTENSION OVER GARAGE AND CONVERT GARAGE IN TO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION

**19 SACKVILLE ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01727/AD

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Scott Davison

APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 04 (DETAILS OF JULIETTE BALCONIES AND BALUSTRADES) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 20/00925/FULH DATED 07.08.2020

**138 SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01634/FUL

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Oliver Hart

DEMOLISH EXISTING BEACH HUT AND ERECT REPLACEMENT BEACH HUT BEACH HUT

**228 THORPE ESPLANADE THORPE BAY**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01660/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION TO FORM GARAGE AND HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION

**55 MARCUS AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01672/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

HIPPED TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION WITH DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE, ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND PORCH TO FRONT, ALTER ELEVATIONS

**26 ELM GROVE THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01722/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

**404 WOODGRANGE DRIVE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01738/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

ALTER FRONT ELEVATION AND CONVERT GARAGE IN TO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE-PROPOSED)

**6 GREENWAYS THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)**

APPLN. NO: 20/01449/AD

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Robert Lilburn

APPROVAL OF CONDITION 18 (DETAILS OF CAR LIFT AS PART OF SCHEME) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 17/01245/FUL DATED 01. 02. 2018

14 LODWICK SHOEBURYNESS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Withdrawn Date

APPLN. NO: 20/01697/FUL

Ward. West Shoebury

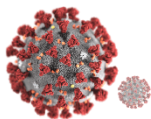
Officer: Spyros Mouratidis

DEMOLISH EXISTING BEACH HUT AND ERECT REPLACEMENT BEACH HUT

**BEACH HUT 519 SHOEBURY COMMON ROAD SHOEBURYNESS**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



**The Government has announced that Southend-on-Sea will move into Tier 3 restrictions at 00:01 on Wednesday 16th December 2020.**

Southend-on-Sea will join nine other districts in the Essex County Council area, Thurrock, the whole of London and four areas of Hertfordshire.

Under Tier 3, people must not meet indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody that they do not live with, or who is not their support bubble, including in private gardens and most outdoor venues. The rule of six applies outdoors in a limited number of public places such as parks.

Hospitality businesses such as bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants will close apart from to offer takeaways, as will accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, and guest houses. The council will work with the Government to ensure local businesses have all the available support.

Please do adhere to the restrictions. Please also think carefully about who you are planning to mix with at Christmas as part of the Christmas bubble and whether that is the safest thing to do at the current time and whist rates in the local area are high, and rising. If you do plan to form a Christmas bubble, then please consider who you are mixing with now in advance of 23 December.

### Other restrictions:

Indoor entertainment and tourist venues must also close including casinos, amusement arcades, museums and galleries, soft play centres, bowling alleys, cinemas, theatres, concert halls and indoor attractions linked to theme parks and funfairs.

Places of worship will remain open, but people must not attend with or socialise with anyone outside of their household or support bubble.

Weddings and funerals can go ahead, but with restrictions. 15 people can attend a wedding ceremony, however, wedding receptions are not allowed. For funerals, 30 people can attend and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events.

Under Tier 3 restrictions, residents are advised to work from home if they can, and reduce the number of journeys made where possible and avoid travelling outside of the area they live, including for overnight stays other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities.

Details for support for businesses in all tiers, including financial support for those in Tier 3 can be found here- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Government advice on forming a Christmas bubble is on GOV.UK

Decisions on which area goes into which tier are primarily based on 5 key epidemiological indicators:

1. case detection rates in all age groups
2. case detection rates in the over-60s
3. the rate at which cases are rising or falling
4. positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of tests taken)

5. pressure on the NHS, including current and projected occupancy

### **School children face mass testing for COVID-19**

Thousands of pupils will be tested for COVID-19 at schools in Kent, Essex and London as infection rates rise. This comes as Public Health England urge the Government to move the capital into Tier 3 restrictions, unless the data shifts significantly. Test data shows that cases were rising fastest among secondary school children, aged 11 to 18.

### **COVID-19: 'Risky' socialising at Christmas**

NHS bosses have warned that socialising over the Christmas period, particularly with those most vulnerable to COVID-19, will be "very risky" and threatens to put further pressure on hospital beds this winter.

## **Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 2020**

### **Key updates/actions**

**Expansion of community testing:** Community testing is being increased across south Essex and Southend-on-Sea.

Further plea issued by Director of Public Health as positive COVID-19 cases and related hospital admissions are rising locally.

**Council issues letter to shops:** The Council has written to large retailers across the Borough to remind them of the importance of asking customers to wear face coverings and keep social distancing.

**COVID-19 pulse survey:** The Council is asking residents to let it know about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and what steps they think the borough can take to ensure a positive future.

**Coronavirus case data:** This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000. Some of the data from that page has been pulled out and is below.

7-day rate of positive cases as of 10 December was 186.2 per 100,000 (**up** from 128.9 per 100,000 on Thursday 3 December. The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 101.1 per 100,000, **up** from 87.9 on 3 December.

**ONS death data:** Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 27 November 2020 but were registered up to 5 December 2020: 232 (+5).

**National and local data:** A link to the national NHS Digital information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

## Other

- Members of the public who need to self-isolate but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available on the corporate website
- Out of hours:

Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice.

The phone number is 01702 215000.

The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

### **PHE**

- Yesterday's briefing on the coronavirus response, data, vaccine deployment and the new NHS Test and Trace business plan is available to view.

### **DoHSC**

- In a press release, coronavirus tests will be offered to secondary school and college age pupils in North East London, Kent and Essex. Surge testing will combat a rapid increase in cases among this age group by identifying asymptomatic cases and helping to break chain of transmission. Mobile testing units will be available, home tests will be distributed and staff, students and their families will be urged to get tested.
- Guidance is updated on council powers under coronavirus regulations. It details new powers that enable councils to take action against specific offences where premises are not operating in a COVID-secure manner.
- The self-isolation period will change from 14 to ten days on Monday. This applies to those currently self-isolating, including those who commenced self-isolation before 14 December.
  - o Self-isolation periods will begin on the day after exposure, a test or the start of symptoms.
  - o The passenger locator form will also be updated from 14 December.

- Guidance is updated on who can claim the Test and Trace Support Payment and how to apply. Contacts identified through the coronavirus app can now apply for the payment.

## **Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

- Guidance is published for the Christmas Support Payment (CSP) support for wet-led pubs that have been severely impacted over the Christmas period due to temporary local restrictions.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

### **House of Commons has published:**

An announcement this afternoon by the Health secretary who updated the house on the latest steps against Covid-19.

Ø Greater London, parts of Essex, and the South of Hertfordshire will move to Tier 3 restrictions from Wednesday 16 December at 00:01. Areas of Essex moving to Tier 3 are: Southend-On-Sea, Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon, Thurrock, Brentwood, Harlow and Epping Forest.

Ø There has been large exponential growth in the virus in London, the east and south east of England. These increases have put hospitals under pressure.

Ø A new variant of the virus has been found. The mutation is loosely attributed to the fast rise in cases in the South-East. Cases with this variant have been increasing rapidly and the World Health Organization has been notified.

### **PHE has published:**

A new statement by health chiefs who urge those with long-term health conditions to get their flu jab, as PHE analysis shows 6 in 10 flu deaths are people with underlying conditions.

Updated guidance for commissioners and service providers for those dependent on drugs or alcohol. Updated to reflect recommendations for best practice for drug and alcohol services in the current stage of the pandemic.

### **DHSC has published:**

An announcement that the NHS Test and Trace service will be open every day over Christmas and the New Year, providing and processing tests for those who need them and tracing contacts of positive cases.

A statement that hundreds of thousands of tests will be offered to secondary school and college age children in a targeted effort to drive down rapidly rising cases.



## Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published:

A new The Christmas Support Payment (CSP) that supports wet-led pubs that have been severely impacted over the Christmas period due to temporary local restrictions.

### **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

The **National Leisure Recovery Fund** has been announced by Sports England and will support publically owned leisure facilities.

- The Fund will be open for applications from 14 December – 8 January, with eligible councils able to submit an expression of interest form from today until 21 December

**DfE** has announced that from January secondary schools and colleges will get weekly COVID lateral flows tests.

- All staff in secondary schools and colleges will be eligible for weekly rapid tests as part of an initial rollout.
- Students will be eligible for daily testing for seven days if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive

New guidance has been published by **PHE** for providers of accommodation for asylum seekers.

Yesterday (14 December), Public Health England (PHE) published a statement on a new variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, which has been predominantly identified in the South and East of England.

- PHE is working with partners to investigate and plans to share its findings over the next 2 weeks.
- There is currently no evidence to suggest that the strain has any impact on disease severity, antibody response or vaccine efficacy.

### **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

#### **10 Downing Street**

Boris Johnson held a press conference today, to reinforce messaging around Christmas, he highlighted:

- Christmas bubble rules are not being reversed. We must exercise extreme caution and greatest personal responsibility.

- Guidance for the Christmas period has been published today. Keep contacts as low as possible in the run up to Christmas. A smaller and shorter Christmas is a safer Christmas.
- 108,000 have received the vaccination so far.

## **DfE**

- New guidance is published for schools and colleges about how they can start to test (asymptomatic) pupils and students from January.
- A template is published to support schools when publishing information about their remote education provision on their websites during the spring term.
- New guidance sets out the eligibility criteria and claims process for the coronavirus (COVID-19) workforce fund for schools. This funding is to support schools facing significant staff absences and financial pressures with the costs of staff cover for the period from 1 November to 31 December 2020.

## **DOHSC**

- Tier 3 and Tier 2 guidance is updated to include links to financial support for businesses.
- Guidance on Getting help with daily activities outside your home during coronavirus has been updated to reflect how the social contact rules in the local restriction tiers apply to people who need support.
- New guidance sets out how and when to get tested for COVID-19 before a hospital procedure.

## **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

- Travel guidance is updated with links to guidance on getting a COVID-19 test to reduce self-isolation.

## **Home Office**

- Guidance is published for EUSS applicants in or outside the UK who have been affected by restrictions associated with coronavirus.

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