



## E-NEWS UPDATE...

### Lincolnshire Councils Covid-19 Impact Survey

A huge thank you to those Councils that have already completed and returned the Covid-19 Impact Survey.

We are asking those Councils which have not yet responded to please do so by **next Friday (29<sup>th</sup> May 2020)**. The information we are asking for is extremely important to feed back to Lincolnshire's MP's about the financial implications faced by some Councils in the region but also to shout up about the fantastic support each of you are currently offering your communities. As you may know, the funding which has been made available to local authorities to support with any loss of income etc has not included Town and Parish Councils, therefore LALC would like to request that the funding made available to principle authorities can be shared amongst local councils which have faced financial losses due to the current global pandemic.

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### Public Toilets & Covid-19

For those Councils with responsibility for managing public toilets and are unsure whether they should be opening them in light of the lighter touch lock down restrictions, LALC are currently awaiting some guidance from NALC as to their recommendations. In the meantime, we are recommending that in the first instance Councils contact their District Council for guidance. Failing this, to help everyone maintain good hygiene, consideration should be given to:

- Opening Disabled toilets only, allowing for a reduction in the amount of spaces requiring regular cleaning and management
- sufficient provision of automated hand sanitising dispensers in public places
- where possible, providing either paper towels or electrical hand dryers in handwashing facilities
- using signs and messages to build awareness of good handwashing technique and other respiratory hygiene behaviours, e.g. around coughing and sneezing in public places
- configuration of toilet facilities to ensure they are kept clean, with social distancing achieved as far as possible and with best practice handwashing followed
- provision of more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection in public places
- minimising use of portable toilets
- enhanced cleaning for facilities that are heavily used

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## **Local Council Award Scheme - Revalidation**

If your Council has achieved any level of the Local Council Award Scheme and are due for revalidation, it is expected that there will be extensions granted due to the current restrictions. We will update you all as soon as we have more information.

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## **Meeting with the Cabinet Office**

Justin Griggs, head of policy and communications, Chris Borg, policy manager and Claire Goldfinch, projects officer met officials from the Cabinet Office on 19 May regarding next year's local elections. A minister-led steering group and a policy-led working group have been established to consider registration of voters, options for holding some polls before May 2021 and 2021 voting options. I'm pleased we are inputting to this work and providing feedback on issues identified so far, and we will be drawing on input from county officers including those in areas with postponed elections. We also shared our recent elections research with officials and we will be continuing to press for changes set out in the report.

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## **Corona Virus Job Retention Grant Scheme – Furlough Leave – Update**

### **Latest Update issued 12/5/20.**

Rishi Sunak has announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be extended for four months, until the end of October 2020.

The Scheme had been expected to end on the 30 June 2020, however today's announcement extends it in its current form to the 31 July 2020.

From August, the Scheme would continue for all sectors and regions of the country but with greater flexibility to support the transition back to work.

Although more details are still to come, it is expected that Employers will be able to bring workers back to work part time, and claim the Job Retention Grant for the remaining hours in the week which are not worked. The Grant would be claimed by Employers to make up the difference between the hours worked and the workers' normal contracted hours.

The amount of Grant to be paid would be based on 80% of the non-worked hours in the week. For zero hours workers, the Job Retention Grant would be paid based on their average weekly hours over a 52 week period, less what they had actually worked and been paid for during the week in which the Grant is claimed.