

Chorley Council Coronavirus Update (27.03.20)

Financial support

We've been working on how we can support residents and businesses and today we will announce the following measures to provide immediate funding and bridge the gap while we wait for the Government guidance to come through on how we can help administer the various schemes.

We're going to:

- Offer support to anyone who is struggling to pay their council tax because of the virus
- Offer an advance payment for all borough businesses up to the value of the grant funding companies can get from the Government
- Give Chorley Market traders a three-month rent-free period

We'll share full details of how people can claim the help from Monday and we'll aim to have the money with businesses in three working days from receipt of application, depending upon demand.

Protecting our communities and most vulnerable

We understand this is a difficult time and right across our communities people will likely face a number of challenges over the coming days and weeks.

We're currently working hard behind the scenes, linking in with partners from the key services, volunteer and charity sectors to develop a programme of support which will hopefully help those in desperate need.

Over the coming days we will be sharing more information about our plans and how you will be able to access additional help and advice. In the meantime, please let us know if you've got areas of concern or suggestions you'd like us to consider as part of the programme of support.

The proposed programme will have 3 key streams:

1. To provide guidance and support to those most affected.

As part of this we will work to:

- Understand the current and changing needs of our community by gathering updates from key partners;
- Communicate key information to residents and the wider community as it is released to help people make early decisions;
- Highlight residents who are vulnerable and at risk of becoming critically affected;
- Compile a community support network and use this to share key updates.

2. Coordinate the capacity within our communities to provide voluntary support

As part of this we will work to:

- Gather information about levels of support in the community including contact details;
- Review existing protocols and guidance for volunteer management;
- Assess the need for voluntary support for existing groups and in response to new situations.

3. Understand and coordinate alternative methods of support, basic care, provision and access to social integration methods and childcare support

As part of this we will work to:

- Support access to childcare for those who need to work but unable to access appropriate childcare currently;
- Communicate about alternative social contact options to ensure people can remain connected and to access support;
- Assess alternative use options for buildings and facilities which are closed to the public;
- Mobilise volunteers who can safely collect and deliver prescriptions.

Please be aware that this is not an exhaustive list of actions for the programme, but we hope this gives you all an idea of the priorities we are putting in place moving forward to support our community. If you are aware of any community activity taking place please email angela.barrago@chorleygov.uk.

Town Hall closure

As the majority of our colleagues are now working from home the Town Hall is now closed until further notice. It will mean you will have no access to the building – we know this is not ideal but we hope you appreciate it is important we do what we can to reduce the risk to yourselves and staff. Residents can still access our services via email, phone and they can visit the Union Street offices by appointment only.

Leisure centres closed

In line with the announcement made by the Government on Friday night our leisure centres closed with immediate effect until further notice. An update on membership and any refunds will be provided by Active Nation in due course – we are in regular contact with them.

Town centre

As you know many businesses have now closed following Friday's announcement regarding pubs, cafes and leisure facilities. The market is operating as normal but we are reviewing this on a daily basis. Many town centre businesses are opening reduced hours. Café Ambio in Astley Park, is also now closed.

Bin collections

We have a contingency plan in place should our contractor have a reduced workforce due to isolation. At the moment all collections are operating as normal and there are no immediate concerns over our ability to deliver collections as normal.

Help is here when you need it



Chorley Council Coronavirus Update (10.04.20)

Chorley Together update

We've have been supporting hundreds of residents through our dedicated service that has been launched to help and support those in need who are vulnerable or high risk. People will be asked to call 01257 515151 or email contact@chorley.gov.uk where the team will deal with the enquiry/case then and there if they can, or will signpost to key organisations who can help. Cases will be triaged and in lesser risk cases, we will be helping people with other sustainable methods of support. We have been getting around 60 calls per day since we began.

We will have colleagues working throughout the weekend at the community hub and will be able to make any food deliveries that are required for people who have no help or support from family and friends.

We are still using social media to reiterate messages and to engage with organisations and volunteers who want to help via a dedicated 'Chorley Together' group on Facebook. The web page with all the information is www.chorley.gov.uk/chorleytogether.

Business support update

Alongside the help for residents we have been working to get the financial support to businesses as quickly as possible. We have processed just short of 900 grant payments with a total of £9.8 million having been paid out so far. Again, colleagues will be working over the weekend to get through the applications and enquiries.

Decision making

All council meetings have been postponed indefinitely and we are now following the constitution, which allows decisions ordinarily taken by full council to be made by the chief executive in consultation with the leader and deputy leader. And the executive members will be able to exercise their functions through executive member decisions. The table below sets out the approach that will be taken to decision making while it is not possible to hold physical committee meetings:

Committee	Decision making
Council	<p>Urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Deputy Leader.</p> <p>Reports for decision will be produced, where possible, in advance. They will be published on mod.gov and all Members invited to provide comments to democratic services by phone or email in advance of the decision being taken.</p>

Executive Cabinet	Decision made by the Executive Leader or relevant Portfolio Holder. Reports for decision will be produced, where possible, in advance. They will be published on mod.gov and all Members invited to provide comments to democratic services by phone or email in advance of the decision being taken.
Planning Committee	Decisions that are delegated to officers or the Chair of Planning Committee will continue to be made in the normal way (albeit through telephone or email rather than face-to-face meetings). Any decisions that would be required to be made by Planning Committee will be delayed until a meeting is possible. This includes applications where a Ward Councillors requests it should go to Committee
Licensing Committee	National legislation will be required. The council will be provided with an update as the situation develops.

For other committees, it is proposed that they would resume their work programmes when they are able to meet again. If there were to be any urgent items of business, the relevant Chair and group Leaders would be consulted to agree a suitable approach.

Decisions taken since 30 March:

Decision	Decision maker	Nature of decision	Link
COVID-19 - Rent Relief	Executive Member (Resources)	EMD Special Urgency	Please note you will be prompted to log in as this is a confidential report https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/Extranet/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=78019&Opt=0&\$LO\$=1
To Suspend Car Park Charges	Executive Member (Resources)	EMD Special Urgency	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?lId=8620
Covid-19 Response: Budget	Chief Executive	Council decision taken under emergency powers	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?lId=8621

Upcoming Decisions:

Decision	Decision maker	Nature of decision	Link
National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	Executive Member (Resources)	EMD	
Future High Street Fund Submission	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	EMD	
Leisure Contract Review - Approval for Amendments to the Procurement Process	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	EMD	
Business Grants Payments	Chief Exec and S151 Officer	Officer decision	
Tatton Development	Chief Executive	Council decision taken under emergency powers	Please note you will be prompted to log in as this is a confidential report https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=75544&AIID=69909
Whittle GP Surgery	Chief Executive	Council decision taken under emergency powers	Please note you will be prompted to log in as this is a confidential report https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=77968&AIID=71827

Full Notice of Upcoming Executive Decisions can be found here:

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=906&RP=115>

Upcoming Agenda items

- No Council meetings scheduled until May
 - No Cabinet meetings scheduled until June
-

Procedures

The procedures for decisions to be taken in emergency situations can be found here:

Council:

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s110739/DELEGATED%20Council%20DECISIONS%20Procedure.pdf>

Executive Cabinet:

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s110740/DELEGATED%20Executive%20Cabinet%20DECISIONS%20Procedure.pdf>

Reporting social gatherings

We know quite a few people have been asking about how they should report people who are breaking the social distancing guidance from the Government – if you do spot people and you want to report it you should ring the police on 101 or report it via their website at

<https://reportitonline.lancashire.police.uk/NdsPublicEngagementUi/index?force=lancashireconstabulary>

Bank Holiday activity

Linked to the above we know the temptation will be for people to leave their home over the Bank Holiday weekend. We've been working closely with the police to identify areas where people might be likely to gather and measures will be taken to encourage people to stay away. The Good Friday tradition of walking up Rivington Pike is a concern and United Utilities will be closing car parks and footpaths where possible. The police will also have a presence and will be telling people to go home and using their enforcement powers if necessary. We have shared lots of activities people can do at home via the internet and the message on our checkoutchorley.com website has been changed to 'Don't Check Out Chorley'.

Bin collections

We have been working really hard to ensure the bin collections are continuing as normal, which is currently the case. Don't forget we empty bins on the Bank Holidays so collection days will remain the same over the Easter period.

Preparing the county

You may have seen on the news today/yesterday that a temporary morgue will be set up at BAE Warton for the county. Hopefully this won't be needed but it is important we work with our colleagues across the region

to put plans in place to make sure any loved ones who pass away can be treated with dignity. The Portakabins that were installed on West Street car park, in Chorley, over the last couple of weeks are now operational – they will be a central point for people who need to see a clinician through their GP practice but are suffering from Covid-19 symptoms.

Public support

Our colleagues have been working around the clock to maintain services for residents and support the most vulnerable in the community. We've had dozens of messages of thanks to the council and just a reminder that if you know of anyone who needs help and support please get them to contact us on 01257 515151 or through the website at www.chorley.gov.uk/chorleytogether.

I hope you have a safe and peaceful Easter weekend and if you have any questions about anything we are doing please ask and I will get back to you.

Help is here when you need it

