

Kent County Council Service Update 25/08/20

Budget

KCC launched a four-week public Budget consultation on 13th July inviting residents to share their views on the County Council's spending priorities, this was available via www.kent.gov.uk/budget.

Following central government's commitment that extra funding would be provided to cover additional costs and the loss of any income councils faced from the closure of facilities and services, KCC received £67 million in grants. Despite the extra funding KCC is facing a shortfall which is currently estimated at £40-50 million for this financial year.

Economic Recovery

KCC launched a new Economic Recovery Dashboard on 14th August which provides a range of economic indicators to support and drive Kent's recovery from COVID-19, it is targeted at businesses as well as public and voluntary agencies. In addition, on 3rd August KCC in partnership with Medway Council launched a £6 million loan scheme to support businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic via the Kent and Medway Business Fund. These loans are available in three formats:

- Recovery Loan, 0% loans between £50,000 and £100,000 and are available to help small and medium businesses recover and return to growth
- Capital Growth Loan, 0% loans between £50,000 and £100,000, allowing owners to, for example, buy equipment or hire new staff
- Business Fund Loan, 0% loans between £101,000 and £500,000, open to all small and medium sized businesses (SME) in Kent and Medway

Education

- **KCC's Safe School Transport Policy**
 - All public bus services will observe social distancing guidelines and have seating plans in place
 - A number of school-day-only services have been restricted to be used only by school children
 - Children are encouraged to travel by alternative means where possible
 - KCC is working with operators to provide extra vehicles on busier services and will continue to do this so that everyone who needs to can travel
 - The use of face coverings has been made a requirement for all passengers, where possible, and for all transport staff unless they are separated by a Perspex screen
 - KCC will work with schools to cater for staggered start and end times where possible – arrangements will be individual to each school, so parents should

contact their child's school directly if they are unsure what adjustments are in place

- KCC will continue to monitor all services and any new government guidance so it can continue to make schools transport as safe as possible

- **Draw Your Own Solution** - a campaign to help young people in Kent aged 10-16 become more aware of what resilience is, and how to increase their levels of resilience, facing back-to-school challenges, it launched the week of 24th August.¹ A focus has been given to making small changes to improve health and understand emotions and behaviours.

Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children (UASC)

KCC Leader, Roger Gough and Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services announced that, despite efforts to work with the Home Office, and the County Council's appeals for support from other UK Local Authorities, Kent reached the limit of safe capacity to care for new arrivals of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children on Friday 14th August 2020. KCC is currently responsible for 589 UASC under 18 year-old and 945 (18-25 year-old) care leavers.

Allington Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC)

On 15th July members of KCC's Planning Committee unanimously approved the proposal by FCC Environment (UK) Ltd to establish a Household Waste and Recycling Centre on Laverstoke Road, Allington. The proposed HWRC will be a split-level facility with 22 recycling container bays with 25 car spaces, including one accessibility space. The lower level will include a two-storey office and shop with 33 parking spaces for members of staff and visitors to the re-use shop. A new access junction will be constructed off Laverstoke Road to the north of the existing priority junction for the Allington waste incinerator.

Covid-19 Cases – Tonbridge and Malling

As of Tuesday 25th August, the day's number of confirmed cases in the Borough was 2, the total number of confirmed cases for Tonbridge and Malling (10th March – 25th August) stood at 381.²

¹ See Appendix A

² See Appendix B

Appendix A

You've Got This!

Making small steps to keep healthy helps build **resilience**...

Resilience will help you bounce back.

Instagram icon @drawyourownsolution
#KentResilience

MOOD
SPARK



Find out more
**DRAW YOUR OWN
SOLUTION.COM**

Appendix B

