

BULLETIN

A NEWSLETTER FOR SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS & STAFF

Business information

The Taxation and Benefits team has been working hard to help our businesses to get the support they need. They've been working long hours to process applications for grants – making sure this money gets to business owners as quickly as possible. Over the past week, we've received over 1,200 grant applications and given out over £11m in support. That's on top of all the work to deliver the Business Rates relief announced in the budget last month. We know more businesses are eligible than those who've already applied, so this work continues.

Supporting shielded residents

We're contacting residents who have been identified as 'shielding' – these are the people identified as most high risk by the Government from the Coronavirus. There are 10,000 in North Yorkshire within this category. We're contacting those in our district who identified at the start of the lockdown as not needing support – around 500 people. We're carrying out a welfare check to ensure their situations have not changed since registering.

Remember, there is one central phone number - 01609 780780 - for residents to access help if they need it.



Service information

All business areas remain very busy at this time. Calls and email levels to our contact centre remain high. We continue to urge residents to use our website in the first instance as this information is regularly updated.

Visit [Coronavirus Advice](#) for information covering our services including repairs, support for businesses and how vulnerable residents can access help and support.

Our trades team continue to respond to 24/7 emergency call outs. They're using PPE to stay safe and following social distancing guidelines when responding to call outs. They're part of our frontline response and are working hard in the community to ensure our tenants stay safe in their homes.

They also continue to work within our void properties with the extra hygiene steps in place. Priorities are focused on the swift turnaround of any of our hostels or transitional properties that become vacant, to ensure our Housing Options Team can continue to deliver their services to the most vulnerable within our community.

HM Government

NHS

Coronavirus

Find out how to help others safely at [gov.uk/safehelp](https://www.gov.uk/safehelp)

STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

Council Tax

We're currently waiting for our software provider to make the changes needed to allow us to process an additional support payment for up to £150 for those eligible for the Council Tax Support Scheme.

This reduction will be applied automatically to the relevant accounts as soon as possible. We've also suspended all recovery action for the next three months. We'll be issuing new bills showing the increased Council Tax Support shortly.

Finances

Councils across the country have completed Covid-19 financial impact returns for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

At this stage, estimating the cost increases and income reductions is difficult as we don't know how long the current lockdown will continue, what the future trajectory of the virus will be, how individuals and businesses will cope and how quickly the economy will bounce back - so the figures are seen as 'high risk' in terms of confidence.

For Selby, we have received £43k emergency funding from the £1.6bn the Government has provided to local government. We've earmarked this for emergency spend required as a direct result of the virus – so far it has been spent on making sure all those that are able to work from home can, on homeless support and on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The main financial impacts for Selby are associated with reductions in key income streams (for example, Council Tax, Business Rates, car parking, planning, rents and investment interest) as well as the potential for additional costs on services and our capital programme.

It's too soon to assess with any accuracy but our initial return shows for the full year, financial pressures totalling about £5m (assuming the Government continues to make up any shortfall in Business Rates through the safety net mechanism).

However, much could change over the coming weeks and months so these figures will need to be kept under review and updated as necessary.

Recycling

All our waste services are running as normal. We'll make the first brown wheelie bin collections next week, for paper and card. Initial reports from the

first few weeks of the service show increased collection amounts, as residents take advantage of the increased capacity to recycle more of their waste.

Stay Safe Online

We're working with police colleagues to get the message out about some of the scams and tricks they've seen across the country. This includes things like text messages seemingly from the government asking for bank details for support payments, or text messages about fake fines, emails that can install malware on your personal devices, or people selling fake products. [Stay aware and look out for family and friends.](#)

Staff Information

The 'guidance for staff' pages on our intranet is regularly updated. Keep checking in to find out about issues such as leave arrangements, how to record absences and support for colleagues who may be in vulnerable groups. [Visit these pages](#) to make sure you are up to date.

Council decisions

The way decisions are made by the Council is different at the moment because we're not holding public meetings. To keep up to date about the decisions that have been taken by the Leader, Cllr Mark Crane, and CEX Janet Waggott, you can [visit these pages](#). These pages are regularly updated with the latest decisions.

Buy Local

There's a new website to help North Yorkshire businesses and tradespeople who can work under Covid-19 restrictions to share what they offer with customers who need their services. Run by North Yorkshire County Council, the aim of this is to help people find local services that are still available.

All traders and businesses are encouraged to register on the [Buy Local website](#) as soon as possible to help create a comprehensive one-stop shop for North Yorkshire residents. Please share and encourage Selby district businesses to get involved.

