



# Hampshire Association of Local Councils

President: Professor John Denham FRSA

Chief Executive: Dawn Hamblet MSc, FICPD

## **Briefing Note**

**All member Council Clerks**

**All Member Council Chairmen**

### **Coronavirus Covid-19 Update**

**10 November 2020**

Entering a second lockdown after the easing of restrictions is difficult and challenging, but we know that the impact Parish and Town Councils had in this situation the first time around was immense and extremely positive. The hard work of each Council in engaging with their communities and providing support was commendable and has been rightly acknowledged by the government.

Much of the guidance for the current lockdown remains similar to that given previously.

It has been HALC's advice since lockdown was lifted that any employees who can work from home should continue to do so, and that risk assessments are carried out for those staff who cannot work from home. In addition, we have been advising Councils to continue with virtual meetings. All of this remains our advice. There is further information on holding remote meetings on our website.

### **Coronavirus Regulations**

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced on 31 October 2020 that new national restrictions will be enforced from 5 November. Further guidance and information on these national restrictions can be found [here](#).

### **Hampshire Specific**

Hampshire County Council (HCC) has confirmed that Hampshire is well prepared to respond to the current changes in circumstances, with ongoing provision of vital essential services, including education, highways maintenance, waste recycling and support for the most vulnerable.

### **Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline**

Anyone who needs help can call the [Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline](#) on 0333 370 4000. The helpline is open 9am to 5pm weekdays and to support the national restrictions, will also be open on Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 November and Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 November from 9am to 5pm.

For help those who are particularly vulnerable to stay safe during this upcoming period of enhanced national restrictions, further support is available from HCC.

Individuals who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable can access support by:

- Registering online via [www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support) as detailed in the letter from government
- Requesting a call from Hampshire County Council via an [online request form](#)

Those unable to register online, will receive either a text message, email or letter from the County Council and be asked to confirm their support needs.

### **HWRCs**

Household Waste Recycling Centres remain open, following clarity from Government that waste services are essential. All residents wishing to visit any Hampshire HWRC will need to book a slot in advance. Booking slots are available seven days in advance at each of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs, and can be [made online](#) or, for those without internet access, by phone on 02380 179 949, between Monday and Friday 9am to 5:30pm.

### **Outdoors**

Hampshire's country parks are open to visitors and normal opening hours and parking charges apply. In line with Government guidance, country parks' outdoor play areas remain open and indoor areas such as our country park visitor centres and shops are closed. Park cafés are operating takeaway services only.

The County Council is urging residents to continue to be sensible and responsible when using countryside spaces and local rights of way – to plan ahead, comply with COVID restrictions that apply, and follow the Countryside code.

For a full update on all County Council operations during the pandemic, please visit the [Keep Hampshire Safe](#) page.

### **Council buildings**

The government has provided [advice](#) to reflect the new national restrictions.

### **Playgrounds and outdoor gyms**

Please also see the updated guidance on [managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](#).

### **HALC services**

All of us at Hampshire ALC continue to work from home in line with Government guidelines. As we are not physically in the office the easiest way to contact us remains through the email addresses shown below. However, our phone is diverted to a mobile and calls are being answered.

Advice on council process, practice or legislation	<a href="mailto:advice@hampshieralc.org.uk">advice@hampshieralc.org.uk</a>
Queries relating to training	<a href="mailto:training@hampshirealc.org.uk">training@hampshirealc.org.uk</a>
Queries in relation to payments	<a href="mailto:finance@hampsirealc.org.uk">finance@hampsirealc.org.uk</a>

We will be continuing to provide support and guidance throughout this second period of restrictions and I wish you and your families well.

**Dawn Hamblet**  
**Chief Executive**  
**10.11.2020**