

Tewkesbury Borough Council

Bulletin 89 – 16 July 2021

Situation report

- Cases are continuing to rise. Nationally, there are 5,281,098 cases, an increase of 452,000 since last reported two weeks ago.
- Across the country, 63 people have lost their lives in the last 24 hours, and 257 have lost their lives in the last seven days.
- In Gloucestershire, there are 1,638 cases, an increase of 484 since last reported two weeks ago.
- In Tewkesbury, there are 243 cases, a decrease of 12 since last reported two weeks ago.
- The R-rate for the southwest is between 1.3 – 1.6 amongst the highest in the country.
- Vaccinations: 46,097,464 people have received their first vaccination and 35,341,428 people have also received their second vaccination.

Service delivery

Property and asset management:

- In line with the lifting of government restrictions, the Public Services Centre will reopen to the public on Monday, 19 July and a limited number of officers will return to work in the building each day. To maintain a safe environment in the building, customers will be encouraged to book appointments for face-to-face meetings with officers rather than dropping in. However, managers will ensure that teams are sufficiently staffed on-site to ensure that any drop-ins can still be seen.

Communications:

- In anticipation of the reopening of the Public Services Centre, messages have been added to our website and social media channels to encourage customers to book appointments.

Growth Hub:

- The Growth Hub will be open from next week. Appointments will be available for booking after the first few days.

High street recovery:

- High Streets Heritage Action Zone for Tewkesbury High Street has now launched, and the [webpages](#) are live. Ullin Jodah-McStea, the full-time Programme Manager for the scheme, is now in post.
- A grant action plan for the Welcome Back Fund - which acts as an extension to the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund and helps us to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism - has been submitted to the Government for approval – we are still awaiting sign-off on this.

- The barriers on Tewkesbury High Street will be removed in the evening on Monday, 19 July and the area will benefit from a deep clean by GCC Highways and Ubico.

Community

- The number of people requesting support through the Help Hub is rising slightly elsewhere in the county but remains low in Tewkesbury Borough.
- Holiday Activities Fund: borough-wide activity schemes organised by Young Gloucestershire are now open for bookings for young people on free school meals. Further COMF (Covid Outbreak Management Fund) funding has created extra spaces for young people not on free school meals - booking for these spaces will be available from next week.
- Gloucestershire County Council have allocated a further £50k per district to develop a summer grants scheme for vulnerable families who need assistance with food and fuel. Further dialogue regarding how to manage this scheme will take place shortly.
- Applications for the small community grants scheme are coming in steadily at a rate of two-to-three per week.
- A workshop designed to inform community groups of the best way to crowd-fund their projects was held last week. Positive feedback was received from the 20 groups that attended.

Business

- A new Additional Restrictions Grant was launched on 7 July – applications will run until 25 July. Despite a targeted email sent to potentially eligible applicants, the uptake has been disappointing and so the team have been ringing businesses to encourage them to apply. By the end of play on 15 July, we had received 55 applications.
- We are continuing to receive Test and Trace Support payment applications in large numbers. We have had 221 applications since the start of June.