

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

County Councillor's Report for Parishes, October 2021 – Cllr Anna Bradnam

Environment and Green Investment

Amey Waste Treatment Facility, Waterbeach - an upgrade to comply with revised emissions limits.

In 2008, the County Council started a 28-year Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract with its Contractor, Donarbon Waste Management, which was later acquired by Amey. The Waste PFI Contract includes services to treat food including garden waste using **an In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facility** and residual waste using a **Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility**, both located at the Waterbeach Waste Management Park.

The IVC and MBT are regulated by the **Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)** and require **EA Environmental Permits** to operate legally. Previously, no absolute value for odour emissions was included in the permits but new updates now limit odour emissions to much more demanding limits - and the facilities' odour emissions are currently significantly above the new limit.

Whilst the conditions imposed by Best Available Techniques (BATc) are prescriptive, the means to achieve them are not. Amey instructed technical experts to review and identify ways to reduce emissions for the IVC and MBT, to comply with the limits. If the IVC and MBT facilities fail to achieve BATc compliance by 17 August 2022, then waste processing operations at the MBT and IVC would cease until the facilities are BATc compliant.

Of the various options, Amey proposed that the following amendments are made to the facilities:

- MBT – Option 2 solution proposes an increased volumetric air extraction from the MBT facility, Compost Like Output (CLO) Bay encapsulation and the inclusion of an upgraded odour control system consisting of an additional two wet acid scrubbers and two new biofilters,
- IVC – Option C(ii) proposes to increase the capacity of the existing IVC Reception Hall biofilter, upgrade odour control system to include an additional dedicated biofilter to treat air extracted from the IVC clamps, upgrade the IVC clamp process air system and use "Gore" covers to encapsulate the compost maturation process.

On 16 September the Environment and Green Investment Committee agreed the recommended options and the necessary expenditure to ensure the processing facilities are compliant with the IED and Environmental Permits to allow continued operation and treatment of waste collected at Household Recycling Centres and by city and district councils.

In due course, this should reduce the odour nuisance we have experienced locally.

You can read the committee paper here [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://www.cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx)

Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation

The County Council has been preparing its response to the consultation. It has been accepted that the officer response, with amendments from the E&GI Committee would be received and accepted after the deadline. I have added wording to the Officer report around the recommendation for the sole access and exit for the site, during construction and operation, to be directly off the A14 at a newly constructed junction.

Adults and Health

Vaccine boosters

The Government has announced that some people will be eligible for booster vaccinations. If you are over 50 or clinically extremely vulnerable, then you will be invited to get your booster vaccination by your GP or through the national booking service. If you are eligible because of your role as a health and social care worker then you will receive a letter shortly from your local authority setting

out how to book for your vaccine.

NHS restructure & collaboration with County and District Councils

You may have read about the replacement of NHS 'Clinical Commissioning Groups' by the new 'Integrated Care System (ICS)' structure that comes into force next April. This is occupying considerable time and effort, as the County Council's statutory social care role means much joint working with the NHS. For those interested in the nuts and bolts:

As part of the national ICS development programme, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will no longer exist from April 2022. CCGs will become Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) with a slim executive team – Chief Executive, Finance Director, Director of Nursing, Medical Director; with support from a small team. There is currently one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, whereas other Authorities have more than one CCG. We will have a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS.

CCG Budgets, including direct delivery and commissioning, will mostly be devolved to Acute Hospitals, health community services – Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust, (CPFT) Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS) - and GPs.

Recently GPs have joined up into **Primary Care Networks** (in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough there are 21 PCNs. Milton Surgery is part of the Cambridge Northern Villages PCN

GP Practices include • Cottenham Surgery • Firs House Partnership * Telegraph Street Surgery, Cottenham • Maple Surgery • Milton Surgery • Over Surgery • Swavesey Surgery • Waterbeach Surgery • Willingham Medical Practice * Longstanton Branch Surgery

Pharmacies include • Over Healthcare • Tesco – Bar Hill • Tesco - Milton • Waterbeach Pharmacy • Well - Cottenham • Well - Histon • Well - Impington • Willingham Pharmac

Sitting under the overall ICS, there will be two '**Integrated Care Partnerships**' (ICP)

- North: Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire
- South: East, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire

and several countywide '**Collaboratives**':

- Children and Maternity , • Mental Health/Learning Disability, • Acute and • Clinical

Each of the ICPs will work together with the PCNs, local health organisations and social care providers, collaboratives and the Voluntary and Community Sector within their area to deliver the services needed locally. The County Council will be actively involved as the Local Authority with statutory responsibility for social care.

An **NHS Integrated Commissioning Board** will be accountable for the delivery of health and care outcomes and health budgets. This will comprise the ICS Executive, the ICPs and Collaboratives, with representation from Local Authorities (membership maybe extended).

There will also be an Integrated Care Partnership Board; which is looking at the synergies between this and the Health & Wellbeing Board (chaired by the County Council and with the District Councils involved too) and considering joining these up to create one plan and a set of agreed priorities.

Recruitment of the Chief Executive of the ICS is now taking place, with others being recruited to by January 2022.

On 29th Sep, Adults & Health Committee will be making a number of decisions including the sensitive issue of mandatory vaccinations in care homes; scrutinising the Covid vaccination strategy, autism strategy, Papworth's response to the pandemic, and dentistry.

Highways and Transport

Combined Authority News – transport and climate action

Mayor Nik Johnson is moving forward with bus franchising proposals. Currently 90% of bus services are commercial and councils therefore have no control over their routes, frequencies or fares. We urgently need at least a 24% shift to public transport from cars to reduce carbon emissions significantly and this won't happen unless we have attractive public transport alternatives. The draft business case is expected in the Autumn, prior to plans going out to public consultation. The leaders of the district and county councils appealed for subsidised travel for young people, knowing that in rural villages getting young people to education or training is difficult without a car. The Mayor declined to declare a Climate Emergency but has established a Lead Member role for Climate Change and Environment which he has offered to the Leader of South Cambs District Council, Bridget Smith. The Combined Authority Board voted, not unanimously, to accept all of the recommendations of the recently completed Independent Climate Change Commission which focused on moving us swiftly to Zero Carbon. Unfortunately not all members of the board accepted that re-wetting peat is absolutely critical to minimising carbon emissions in our region and that future drying out of peat will cause vast quantities of carbon to be released into the atmosphere. The Combined Authority has been awarded £172k to run a career hub for next year. It will involve 30 schools and colleges and will hopefully help to get our young people into training and jobs.

Welcoming Afghan Refugees

Thank you to local residents who have been in touch asking how they can support Afghan refugee families. The District and County Councils are working together to offer homes to three families escaping the terror in Afghanistan, using houses available through SCDC's private rental housing company. The County Council with specialist charities will make sure that these people have the access they need to support, education and health services so that they can start to rebuild.

Education and Children's Services

Education Organisation Plan for Cambridgeshire has been updated for 2021-22

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/strategies-policies-and-plans/strategies-for-schools-and-learning>)

This document provides details of the Council's responsibilities towards childcare and education for the 0-19 age range, and up to the age of 25 for children and young people with Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND). It gives an overview of the projects which have been carried out in the last two years, as well as providing details of current pressures and our planned response to them. The Early Years chapter also links closely to the Council's Market Position Statement and provides an overview of the sufficiency of childcare places in each district, highlighting where housing development is planned, and the additional childcare which may be required as a result.

All pupils and libraries to receive a new book on domestic abuse

A new book with a story about coping with domestic abuse at home is being given to every primary school across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Cambridge writer and illustrator Pam Smy's latest story, "The Hideaway", focuses on a child who runs away from home as he cannot bear the domestic abuse taking place between his mother and step-father.

The storyline was supported by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership.

Cllr Bryony Goodliffe, chair of Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young People Committee, said: "It is heartbreaking that many children will witness domestic abuse, which is why it's so important to raise awareness of the issue." Making sure every child gets a copy, will allow them to read it in a safe environment and understand about domestic abuse and its serious impact. The book is being distributed through schools primarily and will be accompanied by support and signposting.

County governance

County Council's New Shire Hall, Alconbury

Construction of the 'New Shire Hall' HQ for Cambs County Council, a project of the previous administration, has now opened in a phased return- to-work plan and September committee meetings have taken place there. Based at Alconbury Weald off the A1 toward Peterborough, there are no viable public transport connections from most parts of the county, a concern that that was raised at the time the location was first considered. It remains to be seen whether the impressive cycle parking facilities there will be put to use. The most surprising feature of New Shire Hall is that it contains no space large enough to hold a meeting of Full Council. Therefore, the County Council will be forced to hire a suitable venue for each of its Council meetings. The next meeting on November 9 takes place at Burgess Hall, St Ives.

New Shire Hall stands directly adjacent to the 'iMET' vocational training centre, a £10 million project launched in 2018, which has now collapsed and is closed, due to lack of public transport access.

External review of This Land is underway

A review of This Land, Cambridgeshire County Council's arm's length property development company, will be complete by November 2021, members will hear at Strategy and Resources Committee (21/09). You will be able to watch it here <https://www.youtube.com/user/CambsCountyCouncil>.

Avison Young Inc, a global real estate services consultancy, has been appointed to conduct the review which began at the end of August.

The commitment was made as part of the Joint Administration Agreement to review the arms-length company, an approach endorsed by the LGA Peer Challenge which was published mid-Sept.

As part of the report to committee, members will hear that as This Land pays commercial rates of interest on the loans of approx £113m advanced to it by the council, the expected net income council is due to receive in the current financial year is £6m.

So far this year the company has repaid a loan, slightly ahead of schedule, of £2.04m and made interest payments totalling £1.06m.

The paper also outlines the initial questions set for the review:

- Are the assumptions that This Land has made in its latest business plan reasonable and deliverable?
- Is there a clear understanding about the exposure to risk, particularly in the medium term?
- How could This Land adapt its plans to adjust its risk appetite or strategy?
- How could the firm quicken the pace of housing delivery and are there examples from other local authority related housing companies?
- Does This Land have the right skills, capabilities and expertise compared to a typical housing development company of this type?

This Land welcomes the review, set to coincide with the receipt of its updated annual business plan.

Milton Road Library

This Land is progressing a sale of the property they have re-developed at Milton Road comprising the public library (of which the Council is the tenant) and 7 residential apartments. As the company is arms-length, and given previous agreements, the Council has limited scope to influence the sale as the shareholder or lender. Since July, the Council has negotiated with This Land and the prospective purchaser a 20 year increase in the length of lease for the public library (such that it continues until

2064 with further Landlord and Tenant Act protection thereafter). This lease extension will include 5 year breaks for the Council (but not the landlord).

Updates from the Department of Levelling-Up, Communities and Health (DLUCH – was MHCLG)

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 variants identified in UK

On 17 September Public Health England released its weekly update on the number of confirmed new cases of variants of concern and variants under investigation identified in the UK. The update shows that the Delta variant is still overwhelmingly dominant across the UK and that there are four current variants of concern (VOCs) and seven variants under investigation (VUIs).

Summary of coronavirus guidance this week

A list of the most pertinent new and updated coronavirus guidance and announcements made last week organised by theme.

Health

The government agreed to end the requirement for shielding guidance for people previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable. People previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable will not be advised to shield again, following expert clinical advice. The closure of the shielding programme follows a pause to shielding guidance in place since 1 April 2021. Since 19 July, the guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people has been to follow the same advice as the rest of the population, with the suggestion of additional precautions people may wish to take. Those previously on the Shielded Patient List will receive a letter from the government in the coming days to inform them of this decision.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/shielding-programme-ends-for-most-vulnerable>

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) updated guidance to help councils and businesses identify poor ventilation in work areas and take practical steps to improve it as more people return to the workplace. Alongside cleaning, hygiene and handwashing, good ventilation is one of the best ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. As COVID-19 spreads through the air, the virus can build up in poorly ventilated areas, increasing the risk of infection. It is a legal requirement for employers to ensure an adequate supply of fresh air (ventilation) in enclosed areas of the workplace. HSE has also made available a video setting out the key advice and examples of how businesses have improved ventilation to reduce COVID-19 transmission in the workplace.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/index.htm>

https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=ventilation-video&utm_content=digest-28-jul-21#ventilation-video

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/how-you-can-improve-ventilation.htm>

Vaccines

The UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) wrote to the government and confirmed that, overall, the view of the UK CMOs is that the additional likely benefits of reducing educational disruption, and the consequent reduction in public health harm from educational disruption, on balance provide sufficient extra advantage in addition to the marginal advantage at an individual level identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in their advice. The UK CMOs therefore recommend on public health grounds that ministers extend the offer of universal vaccination with a first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to all children and young people aged 12 to 15.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-15-years-against-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-september-2021-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-aged-12-to-15-years> (JCVI advice)

The UK Health Security Agency published easy-read guides providing information on COVID-19 and vaccination for at-risk children and young people aged 12 to 15 years. The easy-read resources are aimed at children and young people who have a learning disability. Print version copies of this leaflet are also available.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) updated its advice on the COVID-19 vaccine booster programme. To maintain the high level of protection through the coming winter, the JCVI is advising that booster vaccines be offered to those more at risk from serious disease, and who were vaccinated during phase one of the vaccine programme (priority groups one to nine). This includes:

- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 50 years or over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, and adult carers
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

The JCVI advises that it would be appropriate for the booster vaccine programme to begin in September 2021, as soon as operationally practical. The JCVI advises a preference for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for the booster programme, regardless of which vaccine brand someone received for their primary doses. This follows data from the COV-BOOST trial that indicates the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is well tolerated as a third dose and provides a strong booster response.

Alternatively, a half dose of the Moderna vaccine may be offered. Where mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) cannot be offered, for example due to allergies, the AstraZeneca vaccine may be considered for those who received it previously.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-updated-advice-on-covid-19-booster-vaccination>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-to-be-offered-covid-19-booster-vaccines-from-next-week>

The Health and Social Care Secretary, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, announced that people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs). The government has accepted the advice of the four UK CMOs and the NHS is preparing to deliver a schools-based vaccination programme. Invitations for vaccination will begin next week. Parental, guardian or carer consent will be sought by vaccination healthcare staff prior to vaccination in line with existing school vaccination programmes. School-aged children aged 12 to 15 will primarily receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school with alternative provision for those who are home schooled, in secure services or specialist mental health settings. Public Health England has made available materials on COVID-19 vaccination for eligible children and young people aged 12 to 17.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-aged-12-to-15-to-be-offered-a-covid-19-vaccine>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-15-years-against-covid-19> (UK CMOs letter)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a letter from the Director of Adult Social Care Delivery to council chief executives, directors of adult social services, care home providers, care home managers and agencies, on temporary medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes. The letter outlines how, on a temporary basis, people working or volunteering in care homes who have a medical reason why they are unable to have a COVID-19 vaccine, will be able to self-certify that they meet the medical exemption criteria. Care home workers who are exempt will need to sign the 'Self-certification form' for people with medical exemptions' or the 'Self-certification form for people vaccinated abroad' and show this to their employer as proof of their temporary exemption status. This temporary self-certification process has been introduced for a short period prior to the launch of the new NHS COVID Pass system which will go live imminently.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-medical-exemptions-for-covid-19-vaccination-of-people-working-or-deployed-in-care-homes>

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) confirmed that the COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and AstraZeneca can be used as safe and effective booster doses. The regulatory decision followed a careful review of available data on safety and effectiveness of booster or supplementary vaccine doses by the MHRA and the independent Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), which advises the government. The MHRA has also now looked at data for the Moderna vaccine to be used as a booster, and this has also been reviewed by the CHM experts who concluded that the Moderna vaccine can be used as a safe and effective booster dose, including in a half dose, which also gives an effective boost to antibodies. The CHM took into account data on waning vaccine effectiveness after the second dose, providing important insights into potentially waning immunity. The data reviewed showed that giving the booster jabs with flu vaccines at the same time is safe and does not affect an individual's immune response to either vaccine. Therefore COVID-19 booster doses may be given at the same time as flu vaccines.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-statement-on-covid-19-booster-vaccines>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-statement-on-booster-doses-of-pfizer-and-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccines>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/commission-on-human-medicines>

The UK Health Security Agency published resources on the COVID-19 vaccination booster dose for eligible individuals. People aged 50 years and over, health and social care workers and younger people at risk are being offered a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will contact individuals when it is their turn to have a booster. The booster is being offered at least six months after the last dose and it will either be a dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. Print version copies of the leaflet are also available.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-booster-dose-resources>

Testing

The government published this week's national influenza and coronavirus report, monitoring coronavirus activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses. Surveillance indicators suggest that at a national level COVID-19 activity has slightly decreased in week 36 of 2021, 5 September to 11 September 2021. Case rates were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a seven-day rate of 597.4 per 100,000 population. The lowest case rates were in those aged 80 and above, with a seven-day rate of 105.1 per 100,000 population. Seven-day case rates per 100,000 population were highest in the North East at 369.6. Case rates per 100,000 were lowest in London with a seven-day rate of 211.7. The number of acute respiratory infection incidents (suspected outbreaks) in England

was 541 in week 36, compared to 383 in the previous week.

The hospital admission rate for week 35 was 7.29 per 100,000 population, in the previous week it was 7.49 per 100,000 population. Hospital admission rates for COVID-19 were highest in the North East, with a rate of 9.73 per 100,000 population.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weekly-national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-published>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-2021-to-2022-season>

Education

The government produced new resources to support councils with their local communications. This includes new resources for schools, universities and enhanced response areas. The Public Health England Campaign Resource Centre contains a variety of materials for councils to view and download including social media materials, leaflets and downloadable posters.

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/young-people-vaccines/>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/video-content-yewande/>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kz4ug5YXIKCMQbWtIzDrQYJw8PA3ECb_/view

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/resources/>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/university-students/resources/>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Community-Testing/resources/>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/young-people-vaccines/>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/spring-response/resources/>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/enhanced-response-areas/resources/>

The Department for Education (DfE) announced that the educational setting status form will reopen for the autumn term. DfE is asking councils and schools to resume completing their attendance data daily throughout September, so DfE can monitor attendance in schools and colleges after the summer break.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-complete-the-educational-setting-status-form>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision>

<https://onlinecollections.des.fasst.org.uk/fastform/educational-setting-status>

The UK Health Security Agency published COVID-19 vaccination guidance and resources for schools. The guidance for schools has been produced to assist all school staff and headteachers with any

questions about the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The COVID-19 vaccination invitation letter template can be downloaded and adapted to suit the needs of local healthcare teams. It should be sent to parents of eligible children, along with an accompanying information leaflet and consent form.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

The government published guidance for schools on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for all children and young people aged 12 to 15. Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff with appropriate qualifications who work to nationally agreed standards. Vaccines are offered in schools to ensure easy access for all children. Schools will have three primary roles which will be familiar to them from other vaccination programmes:

- to provide information to their School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) on which children on their roll are eligible for the vaccine
- to share the information leaflet, consent form and invitation letter supplied by the SAIS team with parents and children
- to provide the space within school, and the time away from the timetable, to enable vaccinations to take place

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools>

Recovery

The Prime Minister set out the government's 'COVID-19 Response – Autumn and Winter Plan 2021' for managing COVID-19 at a press conference. This followed a statement from the Health and Social Care Secretary, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, to the House of Commons. The publication outlines the government's plans for autumn and winter 2021 for England. It includes the government's "Plan A" – a comprehensive approach designed to steer the country through autumn and winter 2021/22. It also outlines a "Plan B" which would only be enacted if the data suggests further measures are necessary to protect the NHS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-14-september-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-autumn-and-winter-covid-plan>

The Local Government Association (LGA) is hosting a webinar on planning for post-COVID19 recovery from 2:00 – 3:30pm on 21 September. The webinar, funded by the government, will explore how councils are considering recovery in their towns and cities, to bring people back to the high street, culture and leisure venues and back into work.

Presentations and case studies will be provided by Manchester City Council, The Royal Borough of

Kensington and Chelsea, The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Chief executives, councillors, directors of place and communication teams, are all recommended to attend.

<https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=444074&eventID=1293&traceRedir=2>

The Cabinet Office and NHS Test and Trace are hosting a webinar at 3:00pm on 20 September to ensure community leaders and local business have the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 ahead of winter. The webinar will be an opportunity to hear updates on the latest guidance, vaccines, masks and ventilation, and testing. Attendees will be able to ask questions and discuss ideas for effective engagement, and to share with the government challenges and experiences in their local communities. You can submit questions in advance to community.resources@dhsc.gov.uk.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uCNkvWdQTFurqqvrcn_UcA

Live Events Reinsurance Scheme

Today (22 September), the government opened the £800 million Live Events Reinsurance Scheme to reinsure live events against COVID-19-related cancellation. The UK Live Events Reinsurance Scheme will support live events across the country, such as concerts and festivals, conferences and business events, that are at risk of being cancelled or delayed due to an inability to obtain COVID-19 cancellation insurance. The scheme will see the government act as a 'reinsurer', stepping in with a guarantee to make sure insurers can offer the products events companies need, and will be available from today (22 September) and run until the end of September 2022.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/800-million-reinsurance-scheme-officially-opens-to-help-give-festivals-conferences-and-live-events-cover-to-plan-with-confidence>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/live-events-reinsurance-scheme>