

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton**, Chief Executive

I had hoped to start with 'Happy New Year', but that feels a bit inappropriate as we start the third national covid-enforced lockdown. Instead, I will start on a different positive note. In North Yorkshire, neighbourliness and little acts of kindness just come naturally to people. Our county is recognised the world over as somewhere that feels like home, where nothing is too much trouble and the people are salt of the earth. A place where natural resilience and spirit mean we just get on with things without making a fuss. I have every faith that this is what is already happening right across communities from coast to dale and moor to market town. With that in mind, I want to say thank you. Thanks for being who you are, for taking whatever comes our way on the chin and for buckling down to get through it. Thanks for picking up that prescription for a neighbour, dropping off essentials, bothering to take a few minutes to chat on the phone to someone who might feel lonely or isolated. Thanks for walking their dog, in a covid-secure way, of course, so that they have the company of their pet without the risks of having to go outdoors if they are particularly vulnerable. Thank you for shopping local, for lifting spirits and for playing your part in Team North Yorkshire – however you are doing that. We are living in unprecedented times and there has never been a more important time to look around us and see who needs some help, do what we can and spread a little happiness in a dark world.

Another important thing to say clearly is that no-one should ever be alone in North Yorkshire. Many people will be shielding again as part of the national lockdown and we are working with 23 voluntary sector organisations across the county to make sure everyone gets the support they need. So, if you don't have anyone you can turn to around you, come to us and we will get you the support you need.

You can contact us online: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Or, if you don't have internet access, you can call our customer service staff. Call 01609 780780 between 8am and 5.30. We operate seven days a week and are here for you. If lines are busy, be patient and we will speak to you and help arrange the support you need. Equally, if you have time to offer to help others in need, please take a look at some of the options here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/how-you-can-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

It all feels a bit like groundhog day – except without the lovely long days of sun we were able to enjoy in the first full lockdown last spring. Schools are closed, except for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children, we cannot visit our favourite cafes and restaurants and we have lost many of the freedoms we love. The big differences that we can hold onto, though, are that we know we can get through this together, because we have now done it twice. We are seasoned and experienced at doing what needs to be done! We also have that light to focus on. The huge NHS mass vaccination programme that is well under way here. Many thousands of you will already have had your first vaccination and over the coming weeks that programme will expand significantly, as more doses become available and more vaccination sites are set up. I am sure you will want to help this huge logistical task to run as smoothly as possible, so please wait to be contacted when it's your turn and let your GP practice know if you can't attend. That means your appointment can be rescheduled and someone else can be vaccinated. By waiting for our turn and sticking to the lockdown rules we will most certainly help everyone get through this in the best possible position.

Although our hospitality industry has been particularly hard hit in this pandemic, lots of our locals and favourite cafes and restaurants are offering takeaway meals and some are doing home delivery. If we support them now, they will still be here for us when this is all over. There has never been a more important time to buy local and there are almost 850 local businesses now registered on our free online directory. There is a broad range of covid-secure services and shops offering delivery and click and collect. By buying local, we are supporting the economy at a critical time and doing our bit to help protect jobs, so please take a look here and see if it offers what you need:

<https://buylocal.northyorks.gov.uk>

Equally, if you are a business and able to operate in a covid-secure way during the pandemic, please register. It's absolutely free and you can read about the success of just some of those who have already taken advantage of it here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local>

While we are in lockdown, however, and understandably being asked to stay at home to protect our NHS services and save lives, we must not forget that for some people that isn't an option and they must leave home to go to work and to provide essential services. That includes our highways team, out battling the freezing conditions we are seeing currently. Snow clearing, gritting, dealing with floods – whatever the weather they are out and about right across the county. As such, they are often faced with situations not necessarily part of their 'day jobs'. Such was the case when our highways manager for Richmondshire spotted someone who needed help. He undertook a covid secure roadside rescue, which I hope provides a heart-warming message for our bulletin today:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/good-samaritan-steve-carries-out-roadside-rescue>

Please stay safe and keep well.

Keeping in touch

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest news, see links below:

- COVID-19 related news: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>
- Devolution/Stronger Together: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together>

Follow us on social media: @northyorkscs on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 2 January, there have been 19,014 positive tests since 3 March, with 3,448 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The locality with the highest seven-day rate is currently Richmondshire, where the rate is currently 465.3 cases per 100,000 people. This remains below the England seven-day rate of 559.5 cases per 100,000. Work continues to ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

Further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>.

National Lockdown

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 4 January, we are now in a national lockdown. This means that you must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- Shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- Go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- Exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area
- Meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- Seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- Attend education or childcare - for those eligible

Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term. Early years settings remain open.

Higher Education provision will remain online until mid-February for all except future critical worker courses.

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local - unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work. Stay local means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should follow resumed shielding guidance and should not attend work, school, college or university. You should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. Further guidance is available [here](#).

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a support bubble with (if you are legally permitted to form one).

You may exercise on your own, with one other person, or with your household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.

You cannot meet other people you do not live with, or have not formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason. Stay two metres apart from anyone not in your household.

Approximately one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it. Remember - 'Hands. Face. Space.'

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds
- face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- space – stay two metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or one metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings)

Working together towards recovery

Testing

Testing sites in North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in England, are operated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care and private contractors employed by them. We try to help

the department by promoting the Mobile Testing Site locations and hosting information on how people with symptoms can book a test via the national government portal.

We do not manage the national booking system or laboratory testing process.

Indications are that lab testing capacity is improving but, if you are unable to book a test at a local site straight away, please keep checking as availability varies during the day.

We are also supporting the Department in asking the public only to get a test if they are directed to do so by NHS Test and Trace or other NHS services – OR – if they have symptoms, to ensure that those people who need tests the most can be prioritised.

Before you attend you must book a test. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.

Testing sites operated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care will be running at the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **Every day - Harrogate** - Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Every day - Scarborough** - William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
- **Every day - Northallerton** – The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
- **Every day - Selby** – Portholme Crescent Car Park, Selby, YO8 4YR
- **Every day - Skipton** - Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP

- **Thursday 7 January - Whitby** - Whitby Marina Car Park, Langbourne Road, Whitby, YO21 1YW
- **Thursday 7 January - Malton** - Wentworth Street Car Park, Smithson Ct, Malton, YO17 7BQ
- **Friday 8 January - Sherburn in Elmet** - Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY
- **Friday 8 January - Thornton Le Dale** - National Trust Car Park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Friday 8 January - Easingwold** - Easingwold Town AFC, Stillington Rd, Easingwold, York, YO61 3DZ
- **Saturday 9 January - Selby** - South Entrance, Drax Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Saturday 9 January - Settle** - Greenfoot Car Park, Settle, BD24 9RW
- **Saturday 9 January - Filey** - Filey Country Park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
- **Sunday 10 January - Scarborough** - Scarborough Park and Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough, YO12 4LW
- **Sunday 10 January - Richmond** - Round Howe car park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Sunday 10 January - Thirsk** - Millgate Car Park, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1PE

Watch this video to find out what to expect and how to prepare for the test:

<https://youtu.be/QawyKwIfKQ>

See the latest dates and locations, find out more and how to book at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing

Supporting our schools and childcare

We are currently in contact with schools to help ensure every child in North Yorkshire can access remote learning. Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday night, we are working on the expectation that schools will be closed to all pupils except the children of critical workers and vulnerable students until the end of the February half-term, February 22.

As teachers in the county now switch to remote learning for the majority of pupils, we are in the process of contacting schools to see if there are gaps in the provision of equipment, including laptops and dongles to access the internet. A scheme which saw laptops distributed to schools took place during the first lockdown earlier this year, but the council is awaiting details from the Government to see if more devices will become available for children and young people who may have missed out on provision last year.

We are also aware of the potential impact on mental health the closure of schools may have. All mental health services will still be available and accessible throughout this lockdown. We have been putting extra training and support in schools to support mental health in recent months and all mental health services will still remain available to any young person who needs them.

Any young person or family can speak to their school if they are concerned about mental health issues, or access some of our online support we have available.

Schools will continue to provide free school meals or food parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals who are not attending school.

Teamwork to support our residents

Supporting our residents

Following the Government announcement on Monday, people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and at higher risk of severe illness from Covid are being asked to shield again. People in this high-risk group will receive a letter from the Government outlining the latest shielding advice, but we are also reassuring all North Yorkshire residents that our support will continue for those who need it.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been working alongside district councils with 23 community organisations across North Yorkshire to coordinate volunteer support in each area. These hubs are a single point of contact within the community, pulling together other organisations to provide a safety net of support which will be there for people during the latest lockdown and beyond. More than 1,500 volunteers have helped thousands of people each week with shopping, hot meals and prescriptions, as well as checking on people's health and wellbeing.

Over the coming weeks, people who need support with shopping and other essentials are encouraged to contact family, friends, neighbours or groups they belong to. North Yorkshire residents without those local networks, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm. People can also complete an online form to let us know what help you need which can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19

To find local businesses offering food deliveries and takeaways in your area, go to the Buy Local directory at www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local.

People can also find details of other local voluntary and community groups offering support at www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk.

We're also urging people to keep checking on neighbours and people in their communities who might need help and support during the lockdown. Find advice on how to help safely at www.northyorks.gov.uk/how-you-can-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19. We know that many people will want to get involved in their communities and help where they can. If people have the time and want to volunteer, we can introduce you to local organisations in your own community. More information can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/how-you-can-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19.

For information about the help available, including a link to the latest Government advice for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable, go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus

Libraries maintain vital links during lockdown

North Yorkshire residents can continue to borrow library books during the current Covid-19 lockdown through a Select and Collect service.

In addition, the home library service, which sees volunteers deliver books, DVDs and CDs to customers who are unable to visit a library, will continue, and pre-booked library computer sessions will be available for essential use, such as accessing services and benefits and applying for jobs.

The Select and Collect service enables customers to phone or email their library to request the type of books they want, then collect a selection from the library's entrance.

Computer sessions must be booked in advance by phone or email. Computers will be spaced to allow social distancing and will be cleaned after each use.

Select and Collect and computer access will be available at County Council-managed libraries in Filey, Harrogate, Knaresborough, Malton, Northallerton, Pickering, Ripon, Scarborough, Selby, Skipton and Whitby. Opening hours may vary, so contact your library or visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/CovidLibraries

Some community-managed libraries will offer these services where capacity allows. However, some are closed and others may vary their opening hours, so customers should visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/CovidLibraries or check their community library website or social media accounts for the latest information.

To find out how to join the home library service, visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/home-library-service or contact your library.

Online digital services, including e-books, e-audio, digital magazines and newspapers and a wide range of reference material are available at www.northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library Digital resources are also available through the North Yorkshire library app, which can be downloaded from the App Store for iOS and Google Play for Android devices.

Library membership is free. Join at www.northyorks.gov.uk/how-join-library or to join, renew membership or get a PIN number, call your library or the helpline number, 01609 533878.

Growing our local economy

LEP News: National Lockdown

National restrictions are now in place across England resulting in the closure of some businesses to reduce social contact and stop the virus spreading.

Check if your business or venue must close here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#businesses-and-venues>

If your business is affected, there is support available, from furlough to cash grants: <https://ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/coronavirus-financial-support/>

£4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs

Businesses impacted by the new lockdown will be able to access additional grants of up to £9,000 per premises - with £4.6 billion available across the UK.

- One-off top-up grants for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses worth up to £9,000 per property to help businesses through to the spring

- £594 million discretionary fund also made available to support other impacted businesses
- comes in addition to £1.1 billion further discretionary grant funding for Local Authorities, Local Restriction Support Grants worth up to £3,000 a month and extension of furlough scheme

Read more: <http://bit.ly/LockdownGrantN>

The York & North Yorkshire LEP welcomes this funding to support businesses. David Kerfoot MBE DL and Chair of the LEP commented, “Whilst this continued situation with the pandemic is incredibly hard, it is vital that we adhere to the new rules and work together to get through this incredibly difficult time.

“However, everyone can help the businesses that are at the heart of our economy. We must all BE LOCAL, SHOP LOCAL, and BUY LOCAL. Our local supply chains are essential to support businesses in local communities and our high streets. Many businesses over the last year have got themselves online and our Growth Hub has provided free subscriptions to the online platform ShopAppy to help with this.

“We urge any business who needs support to get online to trade to visit our Growth Hub and take up the ShopAppy subscription. We have extra help in place right now to support businesses to get products online and promote the opportunity to local consumers.”

To read the full statement, visit <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/news/york-north-yorkshire-local-enterprise-partnership-welcomes-4-6bn-business-support-announcement/>

EU Transition

The transition period has ended and the UK has left the EU customs union and single market and now enjoys a zero tariffs, zero quotas relationship with the EU as an independent trading nation.

Following the signing of the UK – EU Free Trade Agreement, there are new rules for businesses which came into force on 1 January 2021 which require immediate action.

Actions for businesses

These documents cover actions that businesses must take to ensure they are compliant with the new rules which have come into force. Part A provides an overview of key actions for businesses as well as supporting guidance, helpline numbers and FAQs. Part B lists the top five actions for businesses in each of the following sectors: Aerospace, automotive, chemicals, construction, consumer goods, electronics and machinery, life sciences, metals and materials, professional business services and retail.

- [Business actions by topic, support and guidance](#)
- [Top five action lists for 10 sectors](#)

Business checker tool

Businesses should visit gov.uk/transition where the checker tool can be used to quickly identify the actions that your business needs to take. The checker tool will ask questions about your business and provide all the information you need to be aware of such as new rules on:

- [Importing and Exporting](#)
- [Moving goods to and from Northern Ireland](#) including [Trader Support Service](#)
- [Travelling abroad for work](#)
- [Hiring staff from the EU](#)

Staying informed

As always, we are keen to promote the following as main sources of business support information:

- GOVERNMENT: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
 - Y&NY LEP: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
 - Y&NY GROWTH HUB: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>
-