

Our Response to Covid and Continuing Delivery Of Services - Timeline

When	What Happened	Our Response
Late February, 2020		Multi-Agency response arrangements put in place through the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF).
Week commencing 16/03/2020	<p>Advice to work from home where possible. Schools shut except for children of key workers</p> <p>The government announced a complete ban on evictions, a suspension on all possession proceedings and extended the notice period for service of notices from one month to three months</p>	<p>In light of the growing national and international public health emergency, the LRF declared a Major Incident on 20 March 2020</p> <p>Closed Watnall Road to the public from Thursday 19 March</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces – remained open, but contacted all those using pitches etc. to advise them to not hold large gatherings</p> <p>Community Centres - Closed those in Sheltered Courts immediately</p> <p>All Leisure Centres closed</p> <p>Cancelled all events for next 3 months</p> <p>Suspension of new evictions from social housing accommodation for 90 days, introduced serving of notices for 3 month period and delay on new possession proceedings for 3 months</p> <p>Modified arrears escalation process</p>
	1.6 billion announced for local authorities to help with adult social care and homelessness	Commandeered empty social stock already in system (10 additional designated temporary accommodation) in order to fulfil Government directive on obligations to homeless and rough sleepers. Use of direct lets to release pressures in lettings chain. Flexible use of homeless prevention fund.
Week commencing 23/03/2020	The Prime Minister's announcement of first phase of lockdown for residents, businesses and public services. Told to work at home and everything else closed by law. The Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 March 2020.	<p>Extensive LRF structure was put in place underneath the SCG to manage and monitor the crisis across the County and City. The operational structure beneath the SCG was made up of numerous cells covering health, humanitarian support, economy, finance, communications and a dedicated Local Authority cell was also established; a number of these groups had sub-groups to deal with specific issues. As an early action, the SCG agreed a list of Tier 1, Tier 2 and support services which members confirmed were the minimum essential for delivery by all Local Authorities</p> <p>The Council was (and continues to be) represented on all these LRF cells. Within the Council, each Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) member under the leadership of the Chief Executive took on responsibility for the range of Tiers 1 and 2 and support service essential service delivery issues and membership of the LRF cells. Prioritised these services and delivered other services, which were</p>

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		<p>deemed a priority by Members and the Community. It should be noted at the outset, that Ashfield was the only Council within Nottinghamshire, which consistently delivered all the Tier 1 and Tier 2 services in full.</p> <p>An internal COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) was established made up of the Chief Executive, Directors, Service Managers and relevant officers met on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Council took a series of decisions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel Council and Committee meetings and other non-essential meetings • Close its buildings to the public (the DWP appointment only at Urban Road) • Close Community Centres • Close public areas in sheltered courts • Cancel planned community events • Suspended evictions in the council owned housing stock • Council Leisure Centres were closed • Cease all non-priority housing and asset work/repairs • Close indoor and outdoor markets (except for those selling food) • Close play grounds • Provide free Town Centre parking in Town Centres in order to support businesses and key workers. • Meetings were moved on to digital platforms, eg Zoom, Teams, Webex, once the legislation, permitted virtual meetings • Car MOTs suspended due to current MOT cover being extended by 6 months and HGV MOTs suspended for 3 months. • Staff who could work from home, were asked to work from home. Those staff with underlying health conditions were sent home immediately. <p>The Council set up an internal Humanitarian Operational Support Team (HOST) to co-ordinate support for residents across Ashfield, working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council and voluntary organisations. Support involved involved prescription delivery, food/essential items delivery, handling incoming calls from either residents themselves or referrals from the County</p>

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		<p>Council's golden number (via the NCC hub), matching the individuals to voluntary groups or direct action ourselves and undertaking safe and well calls/visits to vulnerable people.</p> <p>We sent letters to all 50-70 year old tenants advising them of Nottinghamshire County Council support number</p> <p>The 'critical' lifeline service adapted the service offer to include self-installs to ensure vulnerable residents could access the service. Repair arrangements were adapted to ensure the responsive service continued.</p>
	<p>Government published a range of support measures on its dedicated website: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support. These were a combination of finance and other types of support.</p> <p>Guidance for the Small Business Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund was published</p>	<p>Based on the guidance issued by the Government the Council issued revised business rates demands of zero for the financial year 2020/21 for those businesses who were eligible for business rates relief due to coronavirus. The Government met the full cost of this relief, which for Ashfield was circa £10m.</p> <p>The Council was allocated £22.284m based on the number of Ashfield businesses the Government believed to be eligible for grant payments in March. The Leader wrote to all 1,800 businesses which were eligible (according to ADC's Business Rates database) for the grant and invited them to apply. Businesses who qualified for these grants received grant payments of either £10k or £25k dependent upon the type of business and the rateable value of their premises.</p>
April	Loss of the then Chairman, Councillor Anthony Brewer to Coronavirus	<p>During the first few weeks, Council officers contacted over 55 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, plus foodbanks, supermarkets and local shops to establish what support was available in Ashfield. All organisations were encouraged to sign up to the community hub. A decision was taken to allow data sharing to assist with communicating with the Extremely Vulnerable People and Vulnerable People as part of Humanitarian Assistance.</p> <p>Hired 10 small vans into Waste Services to enable crews to social distance whilst carrying our critical functions.</p> <p>Deferred Payment of Rent to support businesses who are unable to make timely payments of their rents due to the Government imposed closures</p> <p>Right to Buy valuations were delivered 'drive by/desktop' rather than internal inspection</p>

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		<p>The Ashfield Community Fund and COVID-19 Fund was used to urgently provide immediate financial support to organisations supporting those affected by the Covid-19</p> <p>In order to continue some level of pest control service, we supplied and sold 'kits' to enable a provision of service during lockdown</p>
	<p>New enforcement powers contained in the Enforcement of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020</p>	<p>Delegated the authority to exercise these powers to the Director of Place and Communities. To enable the Council to take prompt and appropriate action against businesses in the District that refuse to comply with the Regulations</p>
<p>Week commencing 20th April</p>		<p>The Council held its first virtual meeting (the AGM) on 23 April. The Council's virtual meetings were streamed live on our YouTube channel and the public was able to participate in planning meetings</p> <p>Fast-tracked rollout of Office365/Teams to employees and members to support remote working and business continuity, holding virtual team meetings and engagement with employees. The Teams solution was key to enabling continuing connectivity of employees whilst working remotely, combining workplace chat, video meetings, and file collaboration and storage.</p> <p>Fast-tracked expansion of telephony Netcall system to additional services to assist with phone management by remote workers</p>
<p>Week commencing 27th April</p>		<p>WWII benches installed at Selston</p>
<p>Week commencing 4/05/2020</p>	<p>Five alert plan announced by government, to ease coronavirus lockdown measures. Office for National Statistics (ONS) data up to 8 May 2020 is showing that deaths in care homes account for 27% of COVID-19 deaths. In care homes, between 20 March and 7 May it is estimated there were 20,457 excess deaths. government updated their guidance on 10 May to Stay Alert Guidance for the Discretionary Grants Fund was published</p>	<p>The Council was allocated £1.078m to help fund local businesses with fixed property costs who were not eligible to apply for grants from the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund. A Nottinghamshire-wide scheme was designed and went live on our website on 2 June We supported VE day with full communications campaign and activities</p>

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Week commencing 11/05/2020		<p>Ashfield acquired 32 new social housing properties</p> <p>Parks and green spaces re-opened</p>
Week commencing 18/05/2020		<p>Bag It campaign commenced</p>
Week commencing 25/05/2020	<p>Contact tracing systems go live in England</p>	<p>The Nottinghamshire Local Outbreak Plan set out how local government would work with the NHS Test and Trace service, outlining emergency response systems in partnership with Public Health England, the NHS, the voluntary sector and the wider community.</p> <p>Environmental Health Teams were involved in outbreak planning from a strategic, tactical and operational position in the event of an outbreak. The Teams were in regular (weekly, daily and bi monthly) contact through the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group, which the Team Leaders were part of, to support planning for future COVID-19 Outbreaks within the district.</p> <p>In addition to this the teams worked closely with the Emergency Planning Team to plan for all eventualities in all 12 outbreak plans in place across the county. Ashfields PSE team had significant input into training for an outbreak and scenario setting to enable this to be developed county wide.</p>
		<p>Demolition of Annesley Miners Welfare</p> <p>Homefinder – re-commenced accepting bids for properties</p> <p>Welfare checks undertaken of vulnerable people</p>

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<p>Week commencing 01/06/2020</p>	<p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2020 (SI 558) came into effect. Car and caravan showrooms, outdoor sports amenities and outdoor non-food markets may reopen. The prohibitions on leaving home are replaced by a prohibition on staying overnight away from home, with certain specific exceptions. Gatherings of people from more than one household are limited to six people outdoors and are prohibited entirely indoors, with exceptions including education. There are further exemptions for elite athletes.</p> <p>Public Health England published a report relating to Disparities in the Risks and Outcomes of COVID-19” on 2 June 2020. This report is a detailed analysis of the disparities in risks and deaths in relation to age and sex, geography, deprivation, ethnicity and occupation. The largest disparity is in relation to age with over 80s being seventy times more likely to die if diagnosed with COVID-19 than those under 40. The risk of dying from COVID-19 is higher for males than females. Those in deprived areas are more likely to be diagnosed and die from COVID-19 than those in the least deprived areas. Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Groups are more likely to be diagnosed and die from COVID-19 than those from white ethnic groups</p> <p>The UK government's ban on tenant evictions in England and Wales was extended by two months to 23 August.</p>	<p>The outdoor markets reopened with social distancing measures in place, for example some stalls relocated to create space for queues for shops.</p> <p>The housing repairs service maintained emergency cover throughout whilst carrying on with its legal duty to service gas appliances. The completion of gas servicing was the department’s most significant risk due to both health and safety concerns for residents as well as the need to remain legally compliant. Amazingly, 1,159 gas services were carried out over the period with only 11 households exceeding their anniversary date. In addition, unlike many other authorities and associations, work also carried on in empty (void) properties meaning that properties were continually available for homelessness and domestic violence cases. Full repairs work service availability re-commenced. Despite around 250 repairs being stopped ‘mid flow’ in March, tenants were contacted 50 per day to reappoint their repairs, the repair teams showed tremendous resilience in still going in to people’s homes throughout the lockdown period, undertaking just over 2,700 repairs.</p> <p>Capital programme mobilisation commenced on external works followed by internals from mid-August. Ashfield were one of the first councils to resume major works programmes to tenants’ homes, in early June 2020, adapting to the new guidelines and restrictions</p> <p>Similarly, Disabled Adaptations resumed, picking up new works as Occupational Therapists returned to work and residents felt able to let builders in to their properties.</p> <p>Main offices for employees operated on a covid secure basis involving one way systems and strict cleaning and sanitizing regimes.</p> <p>Discretionary Grants scheme opens inviting applications until 19th June, 2020</p>

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<p>Week commencing 08/06/2020</p>	<p>Rules requiring travellers arriving into the UK to quarantine for 14 days come into force</p> <p>Parts of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2020 (SI 588) came into effect. In England and Northern Ireland, households with one adult may now become linked with one other household of any size, allowing them to be treated as one for the purpose of permitted gatherings. This also allows the members of one household to stay overnight at the home of the other. The government refers to this as a "support bubble". The rules on gatherings are also relaxed to allow medical appointments and births to be accompanied, and to permit some visits to people in hospital, hospices and care homes.</p> <p>Government placed additional responsibilities and duties on the Council to undertaken new, specific COVID-19 related work in order to support the District such as undertaking thousands of welfare calls and visits to vulnerable people, advising businesses on social distancing requirements, paying grant monies to businesses</p>	<p>Arrangements both locally and across the LRF were reviewed to take account of the dynamic nature of the response and to start to focus on the work required to support the recovery phase</p> <p>Employees volunteered for roles outside of their normal duties, for example, Humanitarian work, Environmental work including cemeteries and Waste Collection.</p> <p>Councillors continued to undertake their community role with enormous enthusiasm to support the residents and businesses of Ashfield.</p> <p>Use of electronic forms agreed via decision to assist with digital approaches for receipt of Benefit applications whilst receptions closed. We received 244 online claims for the period 16/04/2020 – 08/06/2020</p> <p>Ability to make recurring card payments implemented and was focussed on supporting residents finding it difficult to make regular payments, particularly important during the pandemic.</p> <p>Assisted telephone payments were also implemented in order to support more vulnerable/ less digitally skilled customers</p>
<p>Week commencing 15/06/2020</p>	<p>The remainder of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2020 (SI 588) came into effect, allowing the general re-opening of English retail shops and public-facing businesses apart from those that are on a list of specific exclusions such as restaurants, bars, pubs, nightclubs, most cinemas, theatres, museums, hairdressers, indoor sports and</p>	<p>The Council received £114,527 in capacity funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies • Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely • Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely

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	<p>leisure facilities. Outdoor animal-related attractions such as farms, zoos and safari parks may open. Places of worship may again be used for private prayer (but not for communal worship). English libraries still have to remain closed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely <p>A Cross Council working group was immediately set up and a detailed action plan for the short, medium and long term was developed. The Council commenced the recording of details of eligible costs incurred and submit claims and following validation, payment will be received.</p> <p>Suspension of all parking charges for town centre car parks during lockdown continued. On 30th June, Cabinet approved the extension of free car parking in town centres until 7 September 2020. The Idlewells Indoor Market remained open for food supplies, with stallholders selling fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat. The stallholders also provided a delivery service, which has been invaluable for many older customers who have been shielding. The indoor market reopened for non-essential traders from 15 June with all but three stalls trading in some form.</p> <p>Town centre – entertainers scheduled for July to support town centre re-opening</p> <p>New Kirkby leisure centre plans approved by Planning Committee</p> <p>The closing date for business grant applications was 19 June. An Officer Panel assessed applications against the criteria and those eligible were contacted for bank details and payments processed in June. At the closing date of 19 June the Council received 120 applications.</p>
<p>Week commencing 22/06/2020</p>	<p>Government announced that people who have been shielding can meet outside with up to 6 people following social distancing guidelines and if they live alone they can create a bubble with another household. It was also announced that people will no longer be advised to shield from 1 August.</p>	<p>The Recovery Strategy was approved by Cabinet and an officer Recovery Group established. Initially the Recovery Group met weekly as part of a dedicated item on the Corporate Leadership Team agenda</p> <p>Discretionary Grant Scheme - As at 22 June the Council had paid out £17.855m to 1,598 eligible businesses. Members undertook visits to any remaining business premises to encourage application. Following which, in total– 1,646 Grants paid @ value of £18,440,000</p>

<p>By end of June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council received grant funding of £1,383,514 to support economically vulnerable people and households with the expectation that the majority of the hardship fund was used to provide council tax relief, alongside existing local council tax support schemes. In accordance with the guidance the Council provided all recipients of working age local council tax support ('LCTS') during the financial year 2020-21 with a further reduction in their annual council tax bill of up to £150 and revised council tax demands were issued. • The Council received two tranches of funding with a total value of £1,351,127 to meet additional costs and lost income pressures arising as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of additional costs and lost income were collated weekly and reported through to Government on a monthly basis. • The Council supported residents during the first 3 months of the pandemic, including food parcels, shopping, medicine collection and befriending services. Officers made links between supermarkets and foodbanks, to ensure no food went to waste, and was distributed fairly across the foodbanks in Ashfield. Food from the Nottinghamshire Hub was distributed across all food banks. Officers promoted the NCC Covid-19 Community Fund, and where appropriate, supported organisations to apply. Over £70,000 was awarded to organisations who either work solely in Ashfield or have Ashfield as a priority area. The Council awarded £10,000 to help continue the efforts of organisations who very quickly adapted their offer to ensure the needs of vulnerable residents in Ashfield were met. • Activity packs and Little Bags of Sunshine were distributed through schools and foodbanks in Ashfield's priority places. Love Leamington packs were developed and distributed in the Leamington area, in partnership with First Art, and families were encouraged to stay active together through Feel Good Families. • 190 cases to the Nottinghamshire hub were resolved by our Housing staff e.g. provided with advice/support/signposted, whilst Ashfield's cross-Council Humanitarian Team (HOST) have delivered 105 emergency food parcels to Extremely Vulnerable Persons (EVPs). 150 food parcels received from the Red Cross were distributed to Food Banks and homeless persons across the District. In addition to this, there were further supplies from NCC which we passed onto food banks including fresh vegetables (grown and donated by Nottingham Trent) salad stuff, nappies, personal items e.g. deodorants, shampoo, bread. 100 Easter Eggs donated by ALDI were delivered to Food Banks and to vulnerable families with young children. • 15,147 letters were sent out to vulnerable residents across the District by the Council advising of the support available. This included the 3,190 letters sent to tenants aged 50-70 advising of NCC telephone number, 334 to sheltered courts and 11,623 letters to the elderly where we held dates of birth on our various computer systems. We telephoned 1,396 Lifeline customers to offer support and assistance. Housing and Community Protection Officers also carried out 7 physical welfare checks. These were undertaken as and when NCC had not been able to make contact. Action was taken by the ADC Humanitarian volunteers (HOST), to call 2,600 vulnerable residents based in health and national data, in order to confirm if they need help or support or are managing under their own means. This also involved door knocking if the resident could not be contacted by phone after several attempts. • The Housing Options Team carried out 90 assessments placing 44 households under the relief duty and 22 under prevention. Of those under the relief duty, the Council accommodated 37 households, including 10 families and 27 single applicants. 6 households in temporary accommodation were fleeing domestic violence. All rough sleepers from the original cohort were accommodated or had an offer of accommodation. 19 of the single households were moved onto longer-term accommodation such as supported accommodation with the YMCA. In addition, despite restrictions, an additional 8 households were assisted into privately rented accommodation with financial assistance from the Council through the bond guarantee scheme and homelessness prevention fund. Casework such as family negotiation also enabled a number of households to remain in their existing accommodation.
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- The housing team continued to liaise with tenants throughout, assisting with money advice and making new arrangements to pay. Compared to the end of quarter 1 last year there was 27% more money owed, representing £104k additional debt.
- Private Sector housing work continued throughout in terms landlord enforcement, dealing with illegal encampments and fulfil wider environmental health duties in terms of infection control and enforcement, general difficulty of accessing properties during the main lockdown phase.
- Environmental Services provided resource to waste and burial services, whilst continuing to deliver all aspects of street cleansing, emptying over 1,000 litter bins, keeping town centres and parks clean, litter picking on estates and carrying out weed control to keep the District looking tidy. Grass cutting on highways, housing estates and parks also continued. The team developed a garden area at Kings Mill Reservoir accompanying their 'Thank You' message to the NHS. At this site the team carried out a significant amount of tree work and maintenance and have worked collaboratively with the Mill Waters project.
- The Council was able to maintain full-service burials provision with support from the Environment Team as sickness and self-isolation of employees in the service reduced capacity. They dealt with a 62% increase in burials in Ashfield in April.
- Community Protection team provided a visible presence in undertaking patrols in hotspot locations in collaboration with Nottinghamshire Police, Environment, Housing and direct reports made to the Council in our parks, estates, town centres and cemeteries. They undertook a range of activities to support communities and ensure the safety of residents, including engaging and educating groups that may not be complying with social distancing, addressing bonfires and waste on land, supporting the Environment Team in problem solving activities to maintain distances, secure play equipment gates, deliver food parcels and undertaking welfare checks. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) caseworkers maintained contact and continued to visit residents to ensure residents were supported, evidence gathered, and case work maintained. During this period, 192 new ASB cases were created following triage assessment and 124 cases closed. The Complex Case Team continued to support complex, vulnerable residents throughout the period and supported 29 complex cases that has contributed to homeless prevention, drug/alcohol support, benefit support, domestic abuse and safeguarding.
- The Environmental Health team was heavily involved in ensuring the safety of residents and businesses through proactively engaging with businesses prior to clarification on emerging regulations and also compliance with regulations. The team called over 800 businesses to provide advice and guidance on business closures and social distancing and safe practices. Requests for service and advice were higher in the first lockdown, with 504 relating to covid 19
- 3 new HMO online forms went live by end March 2020, our first digital delivery with full integration to 2 other systems (our payments portal and the back office case management system). The new digital feature, through automation, removes all burdensome administration, releasing much needed housing officer resource to be undertaking important enforcement duties across the district, particularly important during the pandemic.
- Void re-let performance suffered during the first quarter as the pandemic put a stop on properties being let, with only essential lets being completed, typically to people who were homeless or fleeing violence. During this period performance fell to an average 50 working days to let each property, well below the target of 21 days. However, our performance remained upper quartile compared to our peers.

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Week commencing 06/07/2020	Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, announces that gyms, indoor pools and leisure centres can reopen from 25th July	<p>COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel was established at the 9 July meeting of the Council, following recommendations made by Cabinet for the establishment of the Panel. The purpose of this Panel will be to review the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and take an active role in respect of the Council's recovery plans.</p> <p>New Byron cinema opened in Hucknall. Feel Good Families summer trails commence</p>
Week commencing 13/07/2020	<p>The remainder of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 came into effect, allowing the re-opening of nail bars and salons, tanning booths and salons, spas and beauty salons, massage parlours, tattoo parlours, and body and skin piercing services. UK government announces the wearing of face coverings compulsory in shops and supermarkets in England from 24 July.</p> <p>From 18 July, local authorities will have the power to enforce local shutdowns. Local authorities in England get new powers to close shops and outdoor public spaces, and to cancel events</p>	<p>Opened new 'maze' at Sutton Lawn</p> <p>Discretionary Grants scheme re-launched – closing 31st July 2020</p>
Week commencing 20/07/2020	Face coverings become compulsory in shops and most other enclosed public places in England	<p>Refreshed Corporate Plan was approved at the July 21 meeting of Cabinet. reviewed to take account of the impacts of COVID-19 and with a forward look to potential recovery plans</p> <p>Corporate Risks were also updated to take account of the impact of COVID-19</p> <p>Days of action all week on Carsic estate to improve environment and street cleanliness</p>
Week commencing 27/07/2020	<p>the shielding programme is paused for England and Scotland, but continued for the areas where extra precautions were introduced</p> <p>Aware that the reimbursement of lost income from Investment Properties and Commercial Units across the District are not recoverable</p> <p>Gyms, indoor swimming pools and leisure centres can reopen</p>	<p>The estimated loss of income from the hotel owned by the Council where the former tenants (Shearings) went into liquidation was £408k for 2020/21. A new Tenant (Vine Hotels) was secured in July 2020. The financial impact of the change in tenancy was factored into a revision of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p> <p>Festival Hall, Lammas and Hucknall Leisure Centres reopened on 1st August. The mix of activities available is increasing with health and fitness, group exercise, lane swimming, swimming lessons, gymnastics and some sports and ice activities now available</p>

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		<p>Skip into Summer campaign launched</p> <p>Provided support for vulnerable people who have been shielding through promotion of NCC helpline</p>
<p>Week commencing 03/08/2020</p>	<p>eat out to help out begins</p>	<p>Supported 'Eat Out to Help Out' through communications campaigns advertising local businesses taking part in the scheme</p>
<p>Week commencing 10/08/2020</p>		<p>Re-opened reception at Urban Road Office, by appointments only</p> <p>Supported 'Shop Local' week</p> <p>Announcement that Amazon would be locating within the district</p>
<p>Week commencing 17/08/2020</p>	<p>As many as three million self-employed people whose trade was affected by the pandemic become eligible for a second government grant worth £6,570.</p>	<p>The Discretionary Grant Scheme closed at midnight on 17th August and in total 209 applications were received. As at 21st August 68 businesses were paid a total of £492,302 in discretionary grants, representing 45.64% of the £1,078,750 Discretionary Grant funding allocated.</p> <p>As at 21st August 1,629 businesses were paid Small Business Grants and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants, to a total value of £18.210m, representing 98.13% of the businesses we believed were eligible for these grants. The remaining 26 businesses were visited by a Visiting Officer to check whether they were still trading and if so encourage them to apply for the grants.</p> <p>Swimming sessions commenced at our leisure centres on 22nd August</p> <p>Community Fund opens back up for grant applications</p>
<p>Week commencing 24/08/2020</p>		<p>Launch 'Call B4 You Serve' partnership campaign regarding impartial support and advice being available for private landlords and tenants</p> <p>Applications could now be made online for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support, including the ability to provide evidence online too, reducing the need for applicants to visit our offices. Since 17th April, 2020 we had received 422 online benefits applications.</p>

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		<p>Since lockdown over 1,300 new customers signed up for an e-store account, nearly 25,000 transactions were made, enabling customers to pay over £3m for services during that period (end March to mid-August 2020).</p>
<p>Week commencing 31/08/2020</p>	<p>eat out to help out ends from 1st September, schools, nurseries and colleges opened for all children and young people on a full-time basis</p> <p>The Government closed Business Grant Schemes and no payments could be made after 28th August 2020.</p>	<p>The Discretionary Grants Panel met regularly to process remaining applications and make payment to those businesses who are eligible for grant as soon possible but by no later than the end of September 2020.</p> <p>On 5th September First Art in partnership with the Council and Leamington school delivered a Secret Picnic event for families which was attended by over 100 residents throughout the day. Feedback was collected to understand what people like and don't like about where they live and ideas for future opportunities.</p>
<p>Week commencing 07/09/2020</p>	<p>new rules regarding social gatherings in England from 14 September are outlined</p>	<p>2 hours free car parking continue</p> <p>Environmental Health team investigated and helped prevent community spread of the virus by working with external partners and implementing interventions at a large warehouse in the district, preventing further community spread, arranging covid testing of an entire workforce</p>
<p>Week commencing 14/09/2020</p>	<p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 came into force at 12.01 a.m. Unless one of the exceptions applies, the statutory instrument provides authority to limit the number of persons in a gathering to no more than six; hence the rule of six</p>	<p>Launch of brand new, modern, user friendly website, which was accredited by the Shaw Trust as fully meeting accessibility standards</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 21/09/2020	New regulations (SI 1029) come into force, in part, at 5 am in England, prohibiting certain 'restricted businesses' and 'restricted services' from carrying on that business or providing that service between the hours of 22:00 and 05:00. The regulations affect a wide range of establishments, including restaurants, bars, public houses, social clubs, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, cinemas, theatres, concert halls, amusement arcades, funfairs (indoors or outdoors), theme parks and adventure parks. The protected area of Bolton is excluded from the scope of this legislation as additional restrictions apply.	<p>Sutton Town Centre Taskforce established to tackle on street anti-social behaviour (ASB), environmental crime and rough sleeping. The initiative resulted in a formal action being taken against a number of repeat offenders as well as providing support and accommodation to rough sleepers and vulnerable persons.</p> <p>Annesley Recreation Ground investment completed</p> <p>Promote NHS Covid 'app'</p>
By end of September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through an enhanced understanding of our voluntary sector, how it interlinks, how robust it is and what support they require from us to ensure their longevity, the council maximised opportunity to benefit the communities and residents of Ashfield through effective partnership working, establishing new bonds and support mechanisms. • Officers responded to 48 community support requests since April. • During the summer Feel Good Families provided an extensive programme of community based and online activities. This included a daily activity promoted via the Facebook page, superhero and princess online craft and bootcamp sessions, themed trails and pebble hunts on local parks. Nearly 500 people engaged in these activities that we are aware of and 400 activity packs were distributed to children whose family was accessing support through foodbanks • From April to September, 35% more households were prevented from becoming homeless, due to the hard work of the Housing Options, Complex Case and Tenancy Sustainment Teams. • From April 2020 to date, 99.66% of the 5,056 properties requiring a gas check, have been completed, with just 17 properties that have not been able to provide access due to issues such as self-isolating or shielding, with an average non-compliance rate of just 22 days over the 17 properties. From April to September 99.44% all repairs appointments made were kept (9264 appointments out of 9316), and 99.85% of emergencies repairs were attended to in government timeframes (2019 repairs out of 2022) • Also successfully concluded the first enforced sale of a private property in serious disrepair. The property was a disused off-licence that had been left neglected as the owner had failed to complete essential repairs. • Idlewells Indoor Market retained 97% occupancy with only one stall vacant. • The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project for Kings Mill Reservoir progressed; the dredging, silt management contract and café reconfiguration were completed and significant progress to improving access and connectivity has been made with new and upgraded footpaths and increasing parking provision. The restoration of Kings Mill Viaduct was completed protecting the structure for the future and enhancing the pedestrian access gateway between Ashfield and Mansfield. 	

When	What Happened	Our Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications were processed well above nationally prescribed standard targets, with 100% of major applications being processed within 13 weeks. • A further five premises had active intervention over the last quarter and made sufficient progress. • Environmental Services team were outstanding in keeping the District clean and tidy and responding to these changing patterns of demand. The levels of resident reported dog fouling incidents saw a year on year decrease over the past 5 years, with a further 9% reduction in reported incidents compared to the previous year. • The Council was swift in removing fly tips and investigating fly tips where evidence permits. The number of fly tipping investigations from enforcement saw an increase of 234 investigations from 86 investigations last year, a staggering 172% increase when compared to last quarter's number of investigation. Similarly, Q2 has seen a 44% increase of fly tipping investigations, from 92 to 133 over this period. The number of fines and warnings have also seen increased. • responded to 2,574 reports of anti-social and nuisance behaviour between April-September 2020. work undertaken by the Community Safety Section has resulted in a high volume of enforcement outputs over the same period, with 7 prosecutions, 5 injunctions, and 169 other enforcement actions. April-September 2020, resulted in the Complex Case Team providing intensive support to 56 highly complex residents across 5 key life areas • further significant 35% reduction in the level of abandoned calls for the period April to September 2020, compared to the previous year. realised a 9% reduction in paypoint and post office payments from April to October 2020 (nearly 11,000 transactions), saving the Council a further £8,000 in transaction costs. • Over 1,700 Businesses were paid grants in excess of £19m by the end of September. • From July onwards voids turnaround performance improved, with quarter 2 out-turn indicating an overall average re-let time of 32 days, which has further reduced to an average of 29 days by the end of December 2020. 	
<p>Week commencing 12/10/2020</p>	<p>New three-tier system of restrictions for England announced, taking effect from 14 October. Ashfield and Nottinghamshire placed in 'High' Alert level = no mixing indoors, rule 6 outdoors and 10pm curfew for bars and pubs</p> <p>Test and Trace scheme announced</p>	<p>Ashfield Community Fund opened from mid-August to October for the second round this year with £10,000 available for community groups to apply. The fund has been awarded to 12 voluntary organisations across Ashfield. For example, the grant to Lets All Eat funded four weeks' worth of food which went to 278 homes</p> <p>Building of affordable homes in Sutton given green light by Cabinet</p>
<p>Week commencing 19/10/2020</p>		<p>Confirmation secured £1.5m from accelerated Towns Fund.</p> <p>Action taken by environmental Health to ensure a closure notice could be served on a close contact barbers who refused to engage to comply with CV19 legislation and requirements</p> <p>Restoration works completed on Kirkby Cross</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
		<p>Launched 'take a tin' campaign – supporting Marcus Rashfords campaigning</p>
<p>Week commencing 26/10/2020</p>	<p>Government discussions held on 28th October, around whether Ashfield and Nottinghamshire would move to Tier 3 – Very High. Confirmed would commence from 30th October, 2020</p>	<p>Regular communications around move to higher tier – alerts etc</p> <p>29th October – announced that classes at leisure centres would continue in a covid safe manner – stressing the importance of exercise and wellbeing</p> <p>Communications to confirm that we were awaiting government guidance regarding business grants in tier 3</p> <p>An early intervention joint Halloween and Bonfire initiative named Operation Safekeep was co-ordinated between Council, Police and partners in October 2020, to create awareness and tackle on street ASB and Covid-breaches across the District. The Operation was highly successful with over 50 Shops and Off-Licences visited and 30 incidents being responded to</p>
<p>Week commencing 02/11/2020</p>	<p>Second national lockdown announced to begin on 5th November, 2020</p>	<p>Ongoing communications that we were still awaiting government guidance regarding business grants for tier 2, 3 and now national lockdown. Expected week commencing 9th November, 2020</p> <p>5th November – national lockdown begins – leisure centres closed</p> <p>November New Tier 3 Grants – 146 Grants Paid @ value of £203,000 for very short period of tier 3</p>
<p>Week commencing 09/11/2020</p>		<p>13th November – business grant scheme applications opened</p>
<p>Week commencing 16/11/2020</p>		<p>Committed further £3k to support 'Lets All Eat' foodbank Sutton</p> <p>To date 470 businesses applied for grants with £371k paid out</p>

When	What Happened	Our Response
Week commencing 23/11/2020		<p>New leisure management contract awarded following extensive, robust procurement activity. The Council and Everyone Active started work on mobilisation plan with the new contract coming into operation as of the 1st April 2021.</p> <p>Started Christmas campaigns early – wellbeing</p> <p>By 26th November 820 businesses applied for grants with £1.7m paid out. Deadline 29th November</p> <p>25th November - 10th December (within Q3), the Complex Case Team delivered the White Ribbon Campaign and 16 days of activism, aimed at ending violence against women and girls, creating awareness and empowering survivors of domestic abuse to reach out and get support</p> <p>2nd Lockdown – 619 Grants paid @ value of £2.23 million</p>
Week commencing 30/11/2020	second national lockdown ends but new local tier system to commence 2 nd December – Ashfield and Nottinghamshire will be Tier 3 Very High	<p>successful Bag It! Campaign commenced</p> <p>2nd December – invite to businesses to still apply for grants</p> <p>Cabinet approved Green Space Improvement Programme £366k</p> <p>Covid Officers have now visited over 760 businesses offering support on restrictions</p> <p>Ability to pay for car parking through ‘app’ introduced with hand sanitizers in all council operated car parks. Free parking Saturdays and Sundays throughout December</p> <p>Supported Small Business Saturday</p>
Week commencing 07/12/2020	first person to get vaccine in UK	<p>Vaccination programme starts across Nottinghamshire on 9th December</p> <p>Improvements on Titchfield Park completed</p>
Week commencing 14/12/2020	17 th December - Government announcements of changes to tiers – confirmed Ashfield and Nottinghamshire to stay at Tier 3 Very High	<p>New Miners statues installed at Brierley Forest Park.</p> <p>Started works on new Kirkby Leisure Centre site. appointed Kier as the preferred contractor</p>

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Week commencing 21/12/2020		26 th December – Future High Streets successful bid announced – Ashfield to received award of £6.2m Additional waste collections undertaken
By end December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodbanks awarded c.£16k to support food supply, delivery, equipment and building improvements as well as to support families during the Christmas period. • To help support high street businesses through the pandemic we have employed Covid Information Officers, since early October they have made almost 800 visits, offering advice and guidance to retailers. • Officers have offered a range of business support to residents and have dealt with over 1270 business support enquiries by December 2020 • A total of 2,565 grants have been paid to businesses, as at end December 2020, at a total value of over £21m • December Tier 3 (open and closed and wet led pub) Grants – 154 grants, with payments made from 2nd December totalling a value of £211,252 	
Week commencing 04/01/2021	third national lockdown begins	Sport England bid submitted to support costs of new Leisure Centre Kirkby Commenced build of social housing on Wild Orchid site Task force coordinated for planned action at New Cross and Central ward
Week commencing 11/01/2021		Installation of new CCTV on Welbeck Street Sutton Business grants applications re-open for businesses forced to close due to tier 4 and national lockdown including discretionary grants for non-rateable businesses
Week commencing 25/01/2021		The Kirkby and Sutton Towns Funding –completion of the Town Investment Plan for Kirkby and Sutton submitted to the Towns Fund
Week commencing 01/02/2021	May elections given green light	New play equipment completed on Coxmoor estate New zero tolerance enforcement scheme launched 150 trees planted on Sutton Lawn

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Week commencing 08/02/2021		<p>Big Spring Clean campaign launched, including 3 weeks of free bulky collections</p> <p>Construction work commenced on new Kirkby Leisure Centre</p>
Week commencing 08/02/2021		
Week commencing 22/02/2021	Government announced roadmap out of lockdown and latest business grant scheme	<p>Advice on website of business grant scheme operating until 31st March 2021</p> <p>24th February – announced Ashfield part of Council Tax will be frozen for 21/22 – only district or borough across the country to freeze their element of council tax</p> <p>Announce plans for improvements at Hucknall Leisure Centre</p> <p>Support Kickstart scheme</p>
Week commencing 08/03/2021		<p>Re-surfacing works completed Piggins Croft car park Hucknall</p> <p>Car parking free</p>
Week commencing 29/03/2021	Step 1 out of lockdown	<p>We have received 146 new food premises registrations since April 1st 2020 to 28th April 2021- more than double the normal application rate</p> <p>The Environmental Health team have read 7 versions of regulation and guidance and advised other teams to ensure the authority stayed legal and compliant and didn't act ultra vires</p>