

## **Potential disruption to recycling and waste collections**

South Hams District Council are advising of potential service disruption to recycling and waste collections. Due to Covid-19 guidance, a number of drivers and crew have recently had to self-isolate.

FCC Environment (UK) Limited, who carry out the collections on behalf of the authority, have managed to secure enough additional temporary staff to keep as many scheduled collections happening as possible and these have been prioritised. However, with so many replacement drivers in place who are unfamiliar with the locality, there is potential for disruption to the collection of all types of waste. There will be only a limited service available for the emptying of recycling banks and delivery of bins and sacks.

When the issue came to light, individual workers potentially affected were identified swiftly and removed from collections immediately to safeguard the public and the rest of the workforce.

Keith Baldry, the Lead Member for Environment at South Hams District Council said: “This is a big blow, just as we were getting back to normal after the round changes. However, teams are out on all waste rounds and will do their best to make sure as many collections as possible are made on the scheduled collection days. Please can I urge residents to bear with us at this time. We sincerely wish the collection crews the best of luck and if any do fall ill, a quick recovery.”

At this moment, we are unable to take any reports of missed bins or sack collections. If any collections are missed, residents are advised to bring the bins or sacks back in until the next collection cycle. If necessary residents may take their recycling to the recycling centres. We will update our website with further information as it becomes available.

## **Green Home Grants**

We are offering Green Home Grants worth up to £10,000. The grants can be used to install either an air source heat pump heating system or solid/single wall external insulation.

To be eligible:

Your property must be rated E or below on your Home Energy Performance Certificate, and

You or someone in your household must receive a means tested benefit or you must have a net household income of less than £30,000 a year.

Installations will be subject to a technical survey as not every property will be suitable. The funding is limited. You can register your interest at [eco@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:eco@swdevon.gov.uk), confirming what measure you would be interested in.

## **Devon Carbon Plan Update**

On 7 December the 25 organisations who make up the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) partnership, will be launching a consultation on their Interim Carbon Plan.

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan will be updated to a final plan after the Citizens' Assembly which has been postponed due to Covid-19.

More information from the DCE is anticipated over the coming weeks. Before that, you may be interested in registering for the webinars that will be part of the consultation process.

### **Spending Review**

The 2020 Spending Review was announced on 25 November. It outlines the Government's spending plans for 2021/22 by setting budgets for each central government department. The full set of documents is available on the Treasury website.

This year's Spending Review provides more certainty for councils next year, but the long-term outlook remains unclear. Public finances will undoubtedly be under huge strain in the years ahead but investment in our local public services is critical to our national recovery next year and beyond.

### **The Winter Support Fund**

Members will recall that the Government has made available a Winter Support Fund to support households in extreme hardship. This has been created in particular to address the gap filled by Free School Meals in term time leading to the significant issue of Holiday Hunger.

For Devon, the following actions have been agreed

A £15pw supermarket voucher will be offered for all pupils eligible for Free School Meals to cover the Christmas holidays. This can be redeemed in six supermarkets (Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Waitrose, and M&S) and each supermarket will provide a help desk. There will also be some funds/vouchers available via Social Services and ourselves for anyone who is vulnerable and may not be covered.

DCC is also developing a series of food networks to draw together organisations including foodbanks, community kitchens, holiday clubs, local business, wider charities and schools. Grant funding will be offered for programmes as appropriate. That means, looking ahead there will be a wider range of solutions for applicants to the hardship funds, and also more involvement of local businesses.

Devon Community Foundation will lead on this work and help us to understand what the needs and opportunities are in our area. They will also keep us informed about what organisations have signed up and what programmes are being supported.

### **BUSINESS GRANTS FOR SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Following the Government announcement of the National Lockdown, there are two types of Business Grants that the Council will now be responsible for administering. These are detailed below:-

- Main business grants for businesses mandated to close and who have a rateable value business premise (Local Restrictions Support Grant)
- A Discretionary business grant scheme for businesses who don't have a rateable value business premise and to help those businesses which, while not legally forced to close, are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19 (Additional Restrictions Grant)

Further details of each of the two types of Business Grant are below.

Main Business Grants for closed businesses (called 'The Local Restrictions Support Grant')

The Government will provide funding to local authorities in England so that grants worth up to £3,000 per month can be distributed to business premises forced to close as part of the lockdown. This funding is being provided to billing authorities (Unitary and District Councils). The Council is being allocated £3,967,542 of Government funding for these main business grants.

The Grant will come in to effect on 5th November 2020 and will be provided on a rolling 28 day basis as long as National restrictions apply.

Businesses that will be eligible for the Grant:

- Businesses that occupy and pay Business Rates upon a property that appears in the Local Rating List and that were open as usual and providing in-person services to customers from their business premises and then mandated to close for a consecutive period of no less than 28 days as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1994

Business that are not eligible for the Grant:

- Businesses that do not appear on the Local Rating List (i.e. do not receive a Business Rates bill for the property)
- Businesses that were not mandated to close (whether they have closed or not)
- Businesses that are able to continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate their services remotely (e.g. accountants, solicitors).
- Businesses outside the scope of the restrictions, as defined by the Government
- Businesses that have already reached the maximum levels of Grant Aid allowed by State Aid rules

Businesses required to close in England due to restrictions will be eligible for the following:

- For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be £1,334 per four weeks;
- For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per four weeks;

- For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per four weeks.

Businesses that are eligible are those that have been mandated to close by Government and include non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses.

All bars and pubs required to close due to national restrictions are eligible for a grant under this scheme. If they chose to operate as a takeaway, click and collect or online with delivery services they will be still be counted as closed and eligible for a grant, because their substantive business has to close. If their substantive business is a takeaway, they would not be eligible for a grant.

All other conditions relevant to the Local Restrictions Support Grants apply, including insolvency, tax regulations, managing the risk of fraud, post-event assurance, monitoring and evaluation requirements and State aid conditions.

A Discretionary Business Grant Scheme (called 'Additional Restrictions Grant')

The Government will provide one-off funding of £1.1 billion to Councils in England, distributed on the basis of £20 per head of population, to enable Councils to support businesses over the coming months more broadly, who are a key part of the local economy.

The Council has been allocated £1,740,080 of Government funding for this Discretionary Scheme. The funding is a one-off amount and is to cover the period of the financial year 2020/21 AND 2021/22.

Local authorities can use this funding for business support activities. The Government envisage this will primarily take the form of discretionary grants, but Councils could also use this funding for wider business support activities e.g. training for businesses.

The Government are encouraging Councils to develop a discretionary grant scheme to help those businesses which – while not legally forced to close – are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19. This could include – for example – businesses which supply the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors, or businesses in the events sector.

Local Authorities can also choose to help businesses outside the business rates system, which are effectively forced to close – for example market traders. Finally, Councils could use this funding to provide additional support to larger local businesses which are important to the local economy, on top of the funding provided to those businesses via the main business grants scheme, with due reference to State Aid.

A business is able to receive both a main Business Grant and an allocation from the Discretionary Scheme. So unlike the situation in the first round of business grants in the Spring/Summer where a business could only receive one or the other, under these new Grants, a business could apply for both schemes.

In taking decisions on the appropriate level of grant, the Government has said that Councils may want to take into account the level of fixed costs faced by the business in question, the number of employees, whether they are unable to trade online and the consequent scale of coronavirus losses.

Businesses must have been trading on the first full day of national restrictions to be eligible to receive a grant support.

Frequently Asked Questions and further guidance

The Government will issue a Frequently Asked Questions document for Councils administering the Business Grants in the next few days. This will cover many of the scenarios that we are likely to come across when administering the scheme.

The FAQs will give more detail on the types of businesses that are eligible to apply.

For example, the Government will shortly issue a definitive list of all those businesses which have been mandated to close.

Timescale

As soon as we have the further Government guidance and the detail behind the schemes, we will be in a position to start administering the grants. Officers will keep Members updated as soon as we have more details.

Fraud

Councils are recommended to use fraud tools such as Spotlight in administering the grants. We will be utilising Spotlight again as a fraud tool in our administration of the grants.

### **Coastal Management: Beesands**

Beesands has suffered historically from erosion and flooding. The current management approach is now financially unsustainable because:

Over recent years the degree of coastal change in the northern extent of the village green has occurred faster than expected, with the buffer now less than 15 metres in some locations.

The predicted rise in sea level and storm frequency will continue to increase this area's vulnerability to coastal erosion, particularly given the extent of undefended coastline further to the north.

The ability to secure further national funding for intervention works is considered unlikely.

We have decided that it would be beneficial to undertake emergency works to reinstate the full coastal defence length, with the acceptance that this would signify the last piece of intervention work that could be undertaken by the Council.

An eight-week programme of works is scheduled to start on Monday 7 December. The work will provide additional time for the local community to begin to adapt to the situation. We will be supporting the adaptation process, which will include asking the local community what positive initiatives could be taken. Please see the attached document for more details on our plans.

### **£163m Winter Grant Scheme**

Food Parcels - The Government has made additional funding available to support people enduring hardship this winter. The purpose of the grant is to help vulnerable families with

children affected by the pandemic, including those who have access to Free School Meals during term time.

We are waiting for more details, but officers across the District and Borough will be meeting with County on Tuesday to hear more about their early proposal to develop a food network in each district area. Networks could co-ordinate support through community kitchens, holiday clubs, charities, local businesses etc. A range of solutions/options could be developed such as holiday clubs providing food, cooking sessions, foodbanks, community meals, offers from local cafes/businesses, community larders.

If you know of any existing arrangements in your communities please let me know. Supporting established solutions that are already delivering good services would seem the best way forward.

### **Alcohol Public Space Protection Orders**

South Hams District Council is inviting residents and businesses to have their say on Alcohol Public Space Protection Orders in a four-week public consultation.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) deals with potential anti-social behaviour in an area, which could have a harmful effect on the quality of life for those in the local community.

PSPOs last for three years before they need to be reviewed and the current orders run out in early 2021. The District Council now need to consult on the next set of Orders for the following three-year period.

Public Space Protection Orders can ban, or limit, certain behaviours. In this case, the drinking of alcohol in designated public areas. If a person continues to drink alcohol after being requested not to by an authorised officer, they can be fined, or in some cases, taken to court.

The current review affects all existing alcohol PSPOs within the District. The Council would like to hear your thoughts if you live or work in these areas:

Totnes, Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Salcombe, Modbury, South Brent, Woolwell and Kingsbridge.

South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, Cllr Jonathan Hawkins, said: "This consultation aims to gather the views of the public on the Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Orders within eight areas in the South Hams. We really want to encourage a wide range of opinions, so please let us know your thoughts before the consultation ends on Friday 18 December 2020."

Once the consultation is closed, a final decision will be made at Full Council in February 2021, before the Orders come into force.

The consultation will be running for four weeks, from Wednesday 18 November to Friday 18 December 2020.

You can have your say in the consultation and find out more information online at:

[www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/pspos-alcohol](http://www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/pspos-alcohol)

## **Get Ready to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle this Christmas**

The mince pies are in the shops and the supermarkets are beginning to stack the shelves with festive treats – so as you plan your shopping for Christmas – plan ahead and let's make this Christmas a less wasteful one.

Last year, South Hams District Council joined many other authorities around the country in declaring a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency.

With plans afoot to change the recycling service early next year, South Hams is totally committed to doing what it can to help residents be more environmentally friendly.

Cllr Keith Baldry South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Waste and recycling said: "Our new improved recycling and waste service comes into effect early next year, but that does not stop us committing to a more environmentally friendly Christmas now.

"With the COVID, 19 restrictions we are likely to see a lot of people doing their Christmas shopping online, which will result in lots of card and boxes, all of which can be recycled.

"We saw earlier in the year that the amount of waste and recycling dramatically increased when people were spending more time at home, and this is likely to be the case of the festive period – with fewer families gathering and taking Christmas holidays.

"So we are asking all residents in advance of the festive period, as you plan your Christmas, please think ahead. There are lots of ways you can reduce what you buy and reuse what you have, which means that there will be less waste and more materials that you can recycle after Christmas.

"Take wrapping paper for instance, wrapping paper is a difficult material to recycle as it contains thin fibres, is often dyed, laminated and glittery or has tape attached. Therefore, it has to go in your grey bin and not your blue recycling sacks.

"So as you shop for Christmas, why not buy some alternatives this year? You could try brown paper or even fabric; there are some great craft ideas online. Our partners at Recycle Devon and WRAP have even more tips and advice, such as alternative gift ideas and ways to reuse everyday household items."

WRAP says that card plays an important role in preventing damage to our products but did you know that a staggering 300,000 tonnes is used in UK households during the festive season? Enough to wrap around Big Ben almost 260,000 times! Or, if we laid all the card packaging side by side, it would cover the return distance between London and Lapland over 100 times.

To help residents with their planning for Christmas, the Council has produced a handy guide to all things Christmassy - save these links to your phone, so the information is at your fingertips when you need it.

<https://www.recyclenow.com/tis-season-be-jolly-aware-recycling>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/give-christmas-cards-a-new-life>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/christmas-trees-real-vs-fake>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/wrapping-paper-alternatives>

<https://www.recycledevon.org/homemade-gift-ideas>

### **Hardship Fund - Welfare Support**

Members during their day-to-day contact with people in their ward, no doubt will come across individuals who are really struggling to make ends meet. Both Central Government and DCC have made funding available which we are administering in the form of hardship grants.

Anyone who needs help will be able to apply for immediate funding through a simple application form on our website. We have tried to make this as prominent as possible on the very front page before a link through to the page.

The Council also has its discretionary Housing Payment Fund, Housing Benefit application and help with Council Tax through Exceptional Hardship and Council Tax Reduction – all the details are on the website. Currently the uptake on the Welfare Fund has been low, most likely because of the additional support such as Track and Trace, Furlough, mortgage holidays etc. which has allowed people some breathing space. We anticipate demand will increase over the next few months.

While we are encouraging people to apply through our website, as ever if people are not able to do this or have no one to complete on their behalf we also have the support line: 01803 861297.

This is also the phone number for people on the clinically extremely vulnerable list who require additional support.

### **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV's)**

Over Wednesday night, people previously on the Government's Shielded list were sent an email or letter with some advice on the precautions they would need to take.

This included details of how to register for food (there will be no food parcel this time) and support. I enclose a copy of the contents of this letter for your information.

The District Council has a role to play in the ongoing support of those who need a service from us, and we will be both signposting to other voluntary services in the community who have again stood up their responses or delivering a service directly ourselves. Demand is not yet known, however nationally last time in-between 10-20% of CEV's required support of some description.

County will be distributing funding they have received from Central Government to assist with the response to CEV. This is 50% of £473k, divided among the Districts on the traditional population methodology, pending further detail of population detail based on CEV.



## **Severe Weather Protocol**

It is a busy time of year for the Housing Team I am emailing to update you about some of our current activities.

Firstly, I would like to confirm that we will be operating the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol from 1 November 2020 until 1 March 2021.

During this time we would be grateful if you could let us know of anyone sleeping rough and advise them to contact a member of the Housing Team (on 01803 861234 during office hours or 01803 867034 outside office hours) regarding the provision of accommodation over this period. We will arrange for an outreach worker to make contact with them. This is particularly important during periods of severe weather.

Secondly, It is the time of year again when all Local Authorities are required to submit a 'snapshot' estimated figure on the number of rough sleepers in the local area during a specified night between 1 October- 30 November 2020. We will be submitting an estimate based on the number of people believed to be sleeping rough on the night of Monday the 9 of November. We will also conduct a 'snapshot' count in Totnes as our main hotspot for people sleeping rough.

We choose to submit an estimate as the most accurate way of arriving at a number because due to the large geographic area of South Hams, a full count would not be able to encompass all the areas involved. Instead we work with partnership agencies such as the Police, Rough Sleeper Drop In Centres and Park Rangers to collate a figure based on verified sighting of rough sleepers or individuals we have very strong reason to believe were rough sleeping on the specified night.

Some Rough Sleepers will never make contact with the Housing Advice Service so it would be very helpful if you let us know of anyone sleeping rough in the South Hams. If you don't know their name, the place where they are usually found and a brief description would suffice.

The definition of a rough sleeper, for the purpose of the Government's estimate is as follows:

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes").

The information we gather through this process helps us ensure we get the most accurate figure possible to report back to The Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) and helps us to design future services.

Finally, I would like to let you know the Devon Home Choice Policy is currently open for public consultation for I have attached the survey to this document for your information. This consultation period will run until January and the result will be collated into a report which will come to member for comment and approval. Please share the survey widely as we are interested in the views and ways we may improve.

## **South Hams CVS**

**BOOK NOW!** Skillshares & Workshops - FREE for volunteers and community groups in South Hams

3rd Dec 11am – 11.40 “SHCVS Partners on Zoom” – RNID Support for People with Hearing Loss

9th Dec 10am - 12 Funding for Community Groups

15th Dec 10.30am – 12.00 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness

20th Jan 10am – 12.00 Promoting Inclusion & Challenging Discrimination

13th Jan. 10am-12.30 Supporting Volunteers

2nd Feb. 10.30am – 12.00 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness

Supporting health and social care? not for profit & statutory organisations are invited to attend: 24th Nov 10am – 12.30 Erme & Yealm Area Caring Alliance meeting; 1st Dec 10am – 12.30 Kingsbridge and District Caring Alliance meeting.

For further information and bookings email: [events@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:events@southhamscvs.org.uk)

Bookings are now being taken for the following Zoom

3rd December 11am – 11.40 SHCVS Partners on Zoom – RNID Support for People with Hearing Loss

RNID Information Coordinator Jason Sculthorpe.

- How to identify hearing loss
- Improved knowledge and skills
- Improved communication with people with hearing loss
- Better understanding of hearing aids and other hearing equipment
- Reduced isolation
- Better wellbeing

9th December 10am – Funding for Community Groups – Skill Share

Funding for Groups - Find out more about local funding opportunities and get top tips on funding bids. Learn what's working for others and share your knowledge & experience. Whether you're new to fundraising or from an established group, you are welcome to come along and share your experience and gain new ideas.

15th December 10.30am and 2nd February - 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness – Pete's Dragons

We are delighted to be able to offer 2 more Suicide Awareness Workshop facilitated by Alison Jordan CEO Pete's Dragon.

Based on recent courses Alison is are going to have the first 45 mins as the information sharing with a 15 min break and then the second 45 mins as implementation which will be led by some FAQs and their answers with more time for participant questions and a bit more interactivity.

The session will be called “5 Steps to Suicide Awareness”. In essence it is the same course as offered previously with the same information, just a bit more focus on the participants being able to put the information into life like situations and ask all the Q’s they need to feel comfortable using it.

13th January 10am - Supporting Volunteer Training

In this practical and interactive session we will look at good practice around supporting new and existing volunteers both in general and Covid specific. We will cover policies, procedures and skills around supporting volunteers with different needs and abilities to make your volunteers and organisation thrive.

To book a place please email [Events@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:Events@southhamscvs.org.uk)

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Event update – Equality & Diversity Training now confirmed.

We were pleased to be able to offer Equality & Diversity Training last week with such positive feedback we are delighted to be able to repeat this training on 20th January 2021 - 10am

“This was such a great session to reflect and consider my, and others, approaches when it comes to promoting inclusion and challenging discrimination. The session provide a safe space to discuss our experiences and opinions, alongside the guidance from the tutor. The different methods of engagement provided an interactive approach, not just listening, which is particularly great, especially when on a Zoom meeting. I liked that the session had videos from speakers that were relatable and challenged our way of just accepting what is presented to us in the media. Overall, a valuable way to spend several hours on a topic that impacts all individuals from all walks of life.”

Please email to book your space, numbers limited.

## **Joint Local Plan news**

Newsletter 1

Welcome to the first edition of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP) newsletter.

Bringing news from the JLP and our delivery across the three JLP council authorities of Plymouth City, South Hams and West Devon, as well as updates from the national planning arena.

The impact of COVID-19 has disrupted planning services across the JLP area at each respective authority, but where possible, work has continued.

Our ability to undertake our annual surveys and publish the results has been reduced, simply due to officers not being able to visit the all sites due to the associated restrictions.

The knock on effect is a delay to monitoring reports including the Housing Position Statement - informing how many homes have been delivered and how many are in the pipeline, this will now not be published until December 2020.

Additionally, the publication of the authorities monitoring report (AMR), reporting performance against the Plan indicators, will now fall into early next year.

Despite the disruptions, survey work has progressed elsewhere and earlier this year we adopted the Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – further detail below.

Thoughts are now turning to recovery and transitioning into a new way of working that adheres to social distancing measures.

The JLP continues to be the prime decision making framework for development and its policies remain firmly in place, with a vision for the future of our area, rooted in a the development of a sustainable and thriving place to live and work. Any recovery strategies can only compliment this vision and will undoubtedly strengthen the policies to achieve the JLP vision.

Councils adopt the Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) covering the three Joint Local Plan authorities of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon and was adopted on the 16 July 2020.

The SPD provides further detail and guidance on how the Joint Local Plan policies are implemented. It covers a wide variety of subjects and includes guidance of every development management (DEV) policy within the JLP.

The SPD is also accompanied by two companion documents; the Developer Contribution Evidence Base and Traditional Farm Buildings: Their adaptation and re-use (Barn Guide) to help support the guidance within the SPD.

All three documents were prepared jointly by the authorities following last year's public consultation and the SPD is now a 'material planning consideration' when making planning decisions across the Plan Area.

All the documents, including the final version of the SPD, Developer Contribution Evidence Base, the Barn Guide and a Consultation Response Report are available to view on our Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document page.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The SCI, adopted on 9 June, is a document which sets out the minimum requirements for consultation and involvement that must be followed by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon when preparing planning documents or consulting on planning applications.

The SCI, which also sets out how the authorities will support groups undertaking neighbourhood planning, was prepared jointly by the authorities and adopted following a public consultation which ran at the end of last year.

All the documents, including the final version of the SCI and a Consultation Response Report are available to view on our Statement of Community Involvement page.

#### Local Green Space Development Plan postponed due to COVID-19

We have made the decision to pause work on the Local Green Space Development Plan Document. The decision was taken in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the council's budget, however, by pausing document preparation we now have the opportunity to consider the future of the DPD in the context of the recently announced planning reforms.

No decision has been made regarding when work may resume, but everyone who has engaged with the process so far, will be notified once the DPD process re-commences.

This postponement will also include the Managing Rural Development Planning Document and The Plymouth Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) review.

View our Local Green Space Development Plan Document page for more information.

#### Two national planning consultations close

National planning consultations closed last month. One consultation concerned current planning policy and regulations and the second covered how the planning system could look in the future, both have the potential to have significant impacts on the JLP and how it is delivered.

From 6 August to 1 October 2020 the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consulted on proposed changes to the current planning system. View the consultation document 'Changes to the current planning system' on GOV.UK.

From 6 August to 29 October the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government consulted on a planning White Paper 'Planning for the future'. View the consultation on GOV.UK and visit our JLP news page to read our response.

#### Any other business

There has been a number of amendments to planning regulations in response to COVID-19. These have the potential to have an impact on the delivery of the JLP and will need to be carefully monitored and considered going forward.

#### 1. Permitted development rights

On 1 October 2020, the government introduced the amended permitted development rights which details what does and doesn't need planning permission. The new rights permit the construction of additional storeys on existing residential or commercial premises and the demolition and re-development of free-standing building blocks of flats without the requirement for planning permission. Visit the Planning Portal for more information.

#### 2. Use Classes

On 1 September 2020, the government updated the Use Classes - categorising land and buildings for different uses, specifying which needs planning permission or not. The amendments introduces a new class system which provides more flexibility to change between the different classes. Visit the [Planning Portal](#) for more information.

Did you know we have an Interactive JLP website? Keep an eye on the news page for further updates on the JLP as they happen!