

Economic Recovery outputs/outcomes Q3 – October to December 2020

Harrogate Borough Council continue to strengthen the road to recovery for businesses in the district

Business and innovation

£53,085,986 paid out in business support grants* across **5883** successful grant applications by local businesses. (Business Rates Grant; Discretionary Business Grant; Small Business Grant; Local Restrictions Grant suite; Additional Restrictions Grant and Christmas Support Payment) *as 07 January 2021.

24 editions of our business e-newsletter* issued, providing information, advice and support in the region of **3,200** subscribers. *as end December 2020.

4,738 Business Toolkit downloads helping shops and businesses re-open safely. 'Operating your business safely' can now be found on the business and investment homepage.

85 businesses benefiting from a three month rent free period equating to £197,000. Currently working with businesses on an individual basis to agree personalised forms of assistance.

#ShopLocalShopSafe campaign continues district wide to support recovery including film production showcasing safe shopping on our high streets, Local radio adverts and printed media.; bollard covers, lamppost banners and parking bay planter barriers were also deployed. Articles featured in Residents and Business e-newsletters with a reach of **45,000** and social media reaching **40,858 on Facebook**, and **14,246 Twitter Impressions**.

917 business enquiries responded to by our Economy and Transport team from the business@harrogate email. **80** businesses supported via our one to one RHSS business support scheme. **20** SME's supported in peer to peer resilience and recovery forums.

1100 Proactive Covid-19 Compliance advice checks responded to by Environmental Health. **61** Covid-19 outbreaks investigated with NYCC Public Health team. **52** planned events – giving Covid advice and guidance reviewing risk assessments.

Maybe* a social media insight platform has been contracted to offer businesses within district access a free account. It is designed to help small businesses maximise their social media impact to attract, retain and grow their customer numbers even during periods of lockdown when their shops are closed. Maybe* offers suite of tools and training resources.

100 letters sent out to business premises with large private water supplies e.g. caravan sites giving advice on safe water use and Legionella on reopening.

Reported figures are cumulative totals for 20/21

Place and infrastructure

17 hand sanitising stations deployed to date across the district in line with government guidelines.

20 requests from businesses for additional outdoor space.*

A total of 16 Pavement Licences have been approved. Agreement with NYCC to extend the Ginnel road closure, and parking bay suspension on James and Albert Street beyond 31 Oct 2020 until end January 2021 to support increased space for safe shopping social distancing.

31 responses received to the HBC Developer/Agent survey to help us better understand the impact of Covid 19 on the development industry

Online application procedure developed for Pavement Licences.

Working partnerships with the Outdoor Spaces Group are:

Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Harrogate Business Improvement District, Ripon Business Improvement District, Knaresborough Town Council and chamber of trade, Individual Businesses

Social distancing supporting measures at the following locations

Albert Street – Harrogate
James Street – Harrogate
The Ginnel – Harrogate
Market Place – Knaresborough – Weds only
Castlegate – Knaresborough – Weds only
Waterside – Knaresborough

Environment and land use

Air Quality Monitoring measured by Harrogate Borough Council

As trends forecast, Q3 has seen a return to normal Nitrogen Dioxide levels across sites monitored across the district.

The beginning of Q2 showed a **20%** reduction in Nitrogen Dioxide levels when comparing July 2019 results.

This was a change from **40%** reduction seen in Q1.

People and community

39 businesses have received the **LCR Digital Resilience Voucher**, totaling £100,000 awards.

9,000 homes ready for service (RFS) in Harrogate as part of CityFibre roll out. Next two quarters will see the build progress into Knaresborough town and Ripon city.