



21 May 2020

To the Elected Members of the City Council

COVID-19 - City Council Response (15)

The Crisis Management Team met (on-line) again today.

The primary focus of the meeting was on the implications of the '***Roadmap for Re-opening Society***' and the '***The Return to Work Safely Protocol***' for the City Council. Detailed planning work is on-going across all City Council Departments to give effect to these documents. The Planning public counter service will re-open on **25 May** with limited public access and on an appointment basis. Work is ongoing on arrangements required for the re-opening of other counter services on an appointments only basis and these will be introduced on a phased basis in line with the *Roadmap*.

Planning enforcement inspections will commence next week.

In relation to the past week the key issues are as follows:

- There have been no major changes in City Council operations over the past week apart from a further increase in staff availability and an increase in activity levels.
- The Council facilities that were opened as part of Phase 1 of the recovery process are generally operating satisfactorily.
- A joint NTA/DCC report '***Enabling the City to Return to Work: Interim Mobility Intervention Programme for Dublin City***' has been finalised and is attached. It will be circulated to members of the Traffic & Transport SPC later today. A meeting of the SPC has been arranged for 3 June to consider the report.
- Details of the ***ReStart*** Grant scheme, which will be administered by local authorities, have been announced. It is open to small and micro businesses with a turnover of less than €5m in 2019 and with less than 50 employees, who expect to suffer a projected loss in revenue of more than 25% up to 30 June 2020. The grant is set at the firm's 2019 rates liability subject to a minimum of €2,000 and a maximum of €10,000. The grants are being paid as a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational, and reconnecting with employees and customers. This scheme will provide a significant boost for small and micro businesses.

- We are awaiting details of the 3 month commercial rates waiver scheme which will be funded by Central Government. This scheme will address the short term funding difficulties of local authorities and will also be of significant benefit to businesses. The sector is continuing to engage with Central Government regarding further supports that will be necessary for local authorities in addition to the 3 months rates waiver.
- Arrangements are being made to extend the power washing programme to streets outside the city centre.
- The Bring Centres at Collins Avenue and Windmill Road remain closed as it has not been possible to ensure that they can operate with appropriate social distancing.
- A Group Leaders meeting was held on Tuesday 19 May at which it was decided that a physical meeting of the full Council would be held on 8 June and on 29 June (i.e. the annual meeting). Arrangements are being made for the meetings to take place in the Round Room.

Tom Brabazon
Lord Mayor

Owen P Keegan
Chief Executive