

COVID-19 update from Annemarie O'Donnell, Chief Executive



Friday 19 June 2020

During this pandemic Glasgow City Council has continued to provide essential support to each and every citizen in some way. The safe operation of our services and protection of our staff and citizens is our priority and we've been following the government's guidance on Covid-19 to continue to deliver essential services safely.

I am extremely proud when I read the many stories from around the council of staff continuing to do their jobs under the most difficult circumstances we have ever experienced in our lifetime. This is true of every one of you, whether you are going to work to deliver services or supporting services by working at home, and those of you who can't work from home are also playing your part by reducing the spread of the virus.

I want to thank everyone who works for the council family for their dedication and commitment to supporting Glasgow.



Covid 19 - Renewal Programme

There is not one single person living in this city who does not rely on us. The numerous comments I've read on social media certainly illustrate that many of our citizens are also thankful for the jobs you're doing to look after our most vulnerable citizens and keep the city clean and running effectively during this unprecedented time.

I want to keep you up to date about our response to the pandemic. The council's emergency planning structures have been in operation since the beginning of the pandemic, to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to following the government guidance and running our essential services. As you'll already know, the government has now published its route map out of lockdown and we are now starting to re-open some services following this guidance.

To enable us to recover from this emergency state and deliver the council's priorities based on the needs of the city as it also recovers to a new normal, a Covid-19 Renewal Programme has now been established with the relevant governance structures and working groups.

As part of this Programme, all services and ALEOs are working on recovery plans that will detail how and when we can restart services and most importantly, how we do this safely and following the government's route map.



Covid 19 - Stay Safe

The health and safety of our workforce and citizens is paramount as we prepare for services to get back to some kind of normal capacity and more staff return to work. For some time to come, everyone will need to continue to observe physical distancing and good hand hygiene at work.

To help us all to stay safe the council has developed workplace guidance on physical distancing and hygiene based on national advice and guidance, and in consultation with our trade unions.

Before anyone returns to work the relevant Covid-19 workplace risk assessment will be carried out, following the physical distancing guidance and in consultation with our trade unions, to make sure that the appropriate staff training, cleaning and maintenance regimes, and physical distancing measures are in place to protect everyone.

Clearly our workplaces and working arrangements are going to be different while we are still following the government's guidelines. For example, in meeting the physical distancing requirements the capacity in our buildings will be reduced which means that fewer people can return to the workplace, in the first instance.

It is likely that in some cases we may need to change how and where we work including a continuation of working from home for now, for those who can do so safely and where the service can be provided in this way.

Every manager has a responsibility for the health and safety of our staff at work. All managers will talk to everyone in their team to plan a phased return to the workplace and discuss any changes to your working arrangements that might be required. Managers will receive further guidance to support this planning phase. I hope you find this update useful to explain our plans for the renewal phase as we start to recover from the effects of this pandemic.

As always, I will keep you updated about any major changes that could affect you and explain more about our renewal plans as they are developed.



Covid 19 - Ask a Question

To help us to understand what's important to you, you can send your questions to Insider@glasgow.gov.uk.

We can't answer all your questions individually but we will publish your most frequently asked questions on the staff updates page on the website for everyone's benefit. If you have individual concerns or questions then you should talk to your line manager or HR team.

June 2020

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