

CRAIG HOY

Coronavirus Advice & Support Information

Covid-19: From Crisis Response to Recovery

Craig Hoy would like to know your views



Dear Resident,

The Covid-19 crisis has forced East Lothian residents to adapt to new ways of living.

We are all in this together, but for many this will have been an especially anxious or lonely period.

Residents are worried about their health, their jobs, their finances and their families. And many are suffering the effects of social isolation during the ongoing lockdown.

Whether you are a business owner putting staff into furlough; whether you are continuing to work as a 'key worker'; whether you are shielding or self-isolating, need help from community resilience teams or the voluntary sector to pick up shopping or prescriptions; or whether you want to volunteer yourself: I have developed this newsletter to signpost you to the information you might need.

As an East Lothian Councillor and the Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate for next year's Holyrood election, I understand the importance of engaging with our communities in good times and the bad.

That is why both myself and my Group colleagues on East Lothian Council are ready to assist our communities in any way we can.

While our focus is currently on the crisis response phase, it is also vital that we get ahead and start to focus on the recovery phase too.

To help do this I'd really appreciate your views by completing and returning the survey on the back page, or doing a slightly adapted version online at craigforeastlothian.com/covid19views

I will make sure your views are passed on locally and to my colleagues at Holyrood and in the House of Commons.

Remember that the Covid-19 situation - and the support available - changes daily so please continue to watch the regular official updates from the Scottish and UK Government.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards.

CLLr Craig Hoy
Scottish Conservative & Unionist Candidate,
Scottish Parliamentary elections 2021

WE LOVE SCOTLAND'S NHS: That's why we can never say 'Thank You' enough



Craig Hoy: Praising our NHS and frontline workers for their dedication and commitment

Across East Lothian our NHS staff, Care Home workers, Council staff, police, frontline workers, charities and thousands of volunteers are doing a fantastic job around the clock to keep us safe.

Our schools and an army of local volunteers and charities are busy making protective equipment and batch cooking

thousands of meals and our Community Councils are leading resilience efforts on the ground.

Councillor Craig Hoy would like to say a huge thank you to them on behalf of all our communities.

This is simply one of those times you can never say **'Thank You'** enough.

UK Government Covid Advice:
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Scottish Government Covid Advice:
www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

East Lothian Council Covid Advice:
www.eastlothian.gov.uk/covid19

Contact Craig

4 Church Street, Haddington EH41 3EX

Craig@CraigforEastLothian.com

CraigforEastLothian.com

craigforeastlothian

07592 392810

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

Here is a brief summary of announcements (as of May 8th)

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

The Job Retention Scheme: The UK Government is stepping in to help pay people's wages – with HMRC paying 80% of wages up to £2,500 a month to support as many jobs as necessary.

Self-Employed Income Support Scheme: The UK Government will pay self-employed people affected by coronavirus a grant worth 80 per cent of their average monthly profits up to £2,500 a month, for three months. HMRC will contact those who are eligible.

If you are newly self-employed and cannot access other forms of support you will be able to claim up to £2,000 from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund. East Lothian Council is administering this fund on behalf of the Government.

Self-Assessment Income Tax: For those in need the UK Government has deferred income tax self-assessment payments from July until the end of January 2021.

Statutory Sick Pay: If you are too ill to work or are self-isolating you should be entitled to £94.25/week paid by your employer for up to 28 weeks.

Universal Credit: It's now easier to access Universal Credit or new style Employment and Support Allowance, with the minimum income floor being suspended to help self employed workers. Four million vulnerable households will benefit from a £1,000 a year increase in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Council Tax and Rent: Council Tax is still being charged but those in difficulty are advised that Council Officers can agree to reduced payments or defer payment to a later date if helpful. If you are struggling, Officers can also liaise with other Council services and agencies on your behalf. Businesses in Council owned properties can request rental holidays.

Rent and Mortgage Payments: The UK Government has agreed with mortgage lenders that they will offer 'repayment holidays' of three months to households in financial difficulty due to Covid-19. This will also apply to landlords whose tenants are experiencing financial difficulties.

Food Bills: The Scottish Government has established a £70 million Food Fund. This is being administered by East Lothian Council and funds are being dispersed on a ward-by-ward basis.

Utility Bills: If you are encountering problems paying please contact your provider. Disconnection of credit meters is completely suspended. If you are in financial distress, you may also be able to have your debts or bill payments reassessed, paused or reduced where needed.

The Scottish Welfare Fund: This has received additional funding to provide crisis grants for those in financial emergency.

Student Support: A £5 million package of emergency financial support has been put in place to help students facing hardship. Students should apply directly to their educational institution.

The UK Government, the Scottish Government and a number of agencies have announced a range of measures to help business, individuals and third sector organisations. These are updated regularly on their websites and summaries are also published on Craig's website at:
www.craigforeastlothian.com/Covid19

BUSINESS GRANT SUPPORT

Business Grants: Businesses with a rateable value of between £18,001 and £51,000 in retail, hospitality, tourism may be eligible for a grant of up to £25,000 for their first property and £18,750 for each additional property.

Small Businesses: Businesses which qualify for the Small Business Bonus Scheme or Rural Rate Relief may be eligible for a grant of up to £10,000 for the first property and 75% funding for subsequent premises.

Both of these grants are being administered by East Lothian Council.

*** * * * UPDATE * * * ***

A significant number of eligible East Lothian businesses have still to apply for grants worth between £10,000 and £25,000. To find out if you can apply visit:
www.eastlothian.gov.uk/supportgrants

KEY CONTACT NUMBERS

For the latest on East Lothian's refuse and recycling services please visit East Lothian Council's website

National Helplines:

NHS Scotland Covid-19 Helpline: 0800 028 2816

HMRC Helpline: 0800 015 9559

Universal Credit Helpline: 0800 328 5644

Scottish Government Business Helpline: 0300 303 0660

Advice Direct Scotland Coronavirus Helpline: 0808 8009060

NHS Helpline for "high risk" groups: 0800 1114000

Age Scotland Helpline: 0800 1244222

Childline: 0800 1111

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Local helplines:

East Lothian Council 24/7 Contact Centre: 01620 827827

East Lothian Adult Social Care: 01875 824309

East Lothian Covid Helpline: 01875 824300

OTHER BUSINESS SUPPORT

A package of support for those which do not qualify for business grants can access a £20 million hardship fund for creative, tourism and hospitality businesses not in receipt of business rates relief.

A £45 million Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund has been announced and will be managed by the Enterprise Agencies for vulnerable SME firms who are vital to the local or national economic foundations of Scotland.

Additional packages of support are in place for R&D intensive small and medium size firms, farming, fisheries and microbusinesses.

Business Loans:

Small businesses may be eligible for a UK Government Bounce Back loan of between £2,000 and £50,000.

Smaller scale interest-free business interruption loans are being offered by East Lothian Investments Ltd. to help keep East Lothian employers afloat during the current Coronavirus crisis.

Larger loans are also available through The

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, which was introduced by the UK Government and which is administered through High Street banks.

VAT Payments:

The UK Government has announced that VAT for April, May and June will be deferred, and businesses will have until the end of the financial year to repay those bills.

Statutory Sick Pay:

Businesses employing under 250 people may be entitled to reclaim the costs of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for sickness absence.

Rates:

If your business occupies a property in the retail, hospitality, tourism or aviation sectors you will be eligible for a one year 100 per cent discount on your rates bill. All businesses will also be eligible for a 1.6 per cent relief regardless of rateable value.

Tax Bills:

Business owners and the self-employed may be able to request a rescheduling of their tax bill through HMRC's Time to Pay service.

EAST LOTHIAN'S SCHOOLS

Free school meals: While schools remain closed, East Lothian Council has been asked to take measures to help children who rely on schools for hot meals or who are vulnerable and need a safe and supportive environment.

Contact freeschoolmeals@eastlothian.gov.uk for details.

Children's Hubs: Until schools reopen, children of key workers will have continuing access to learning or childcare at six Children's Hubs, which are providing emergency learning and childcare for key workers in East Lothian.

Exams: School exams will not go ahead this year. Instead, the Scottish Qualifications Authority is putting in place a certification model using coursework, teacher assessment of estimated grades and prior attainment.

LOCAL RESILIENCE TEAMS

There are local teams operating in communities right across East Lothian. If you would like to contact your local team to seek assistance or indeed to offer your help, please email craig@craigforeastlothian.com or call him on **07592 392810** and he will provide you with the relevant contact details.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLORS' GROUP

The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group on East Lothian Council have Councillors in every ward across East Lothian.

If you would like to contact your local ward Councillor please visit www.craigforeastlothian.com where you will find a full list of contact details.

BEWARE OF CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

The coronavirus outbreak has created the perfect storm for scams, with fraudsters using callous tactics to exploit people's fears and vulnerabilities for their own financial gain. For more information on what to look out for, please visit www.craigforeastlothian.com/covid19scams

CRAIG HOY: Engaging East Lothian

Managing The Recovery Phase: Craig would like to know your views

Please complete this survey and email a scan or photo to craig@craigforeastlothian.com
Easier still, complete the survey online at craigforeastlothian.com/covid19views

If you are unable to complete the survey online or via email please post to **Craig Hoy, 4 Church Street, Haddington, EH41 3EX**
(but please do not go outside if you have been asked to shield).

1 Are there any gaps in public health information which government needs to address, and if so, what are they?

Yes No

Comments:

2 Are there any gaps in support for business or the self-employed which government needs to address and if so, what are they?

Yes No

Comments:

3 Which of the following are you most concerned about during the period the country moves from crisis response to recovery? Please number 1-6 with 1 being your highest concern.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A second wave of COVID-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale job losses/business failure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The impact on education | <input type="checkbox"/> The impact on routine NHS treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The impact on the economy | <input type="checkbox"/> The impact on government finances |

4 When we enter the recovery phase what should be the main priority areas for Government? Please number 1-6 with 1 being your highest concern.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting small business | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting the High Street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting large companies | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting job creation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding public services | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing public finances |

What could be done to achieve this?

5 Do you have any other Covid-19 related issues or concerns?

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Please only complete the boxes if you agree to being contacted this way.

Your data will be used by the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party as part of our democratic engagement with electors. Where necessary, your data will be shared with Conservative Party Headquarters, our candidates and elected representatives. It will not be given or sold to anyone else. For more information please see our privacy notice available at www.conservatives.com/privacy. If you do not wish to receive future messages please let us know by writing to 4 Church Street, Haddington EH41 3EX.

Promoted by S Russell on behalf of Cllr C Hoy, both of 4 Church Street, Haddington, EH41 3EX. Printed by Tradeprint, 2 Fulton Road, Dundee DD2 4SW.

[] Please tick here to receive Craig's regular monthly email newsletter.