



Democracy Direct 18 January 2021

## CORONAVIRUS KEY INFORMATION

Legislation & Guidance:

[Previously published information relating to legislation, and LLG/ADSO guidance appeared in Bulletins 11-30 and is available for reference via the LLG website; (Editor)]

Coronavirus Updated Links:

Coronavirus (COVID-19): **guidance for local government:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>

Guidance; Coronavirus (COVID-19) - **Planning Inspectorate guidance**

In response to the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), The Planning Inspectorate has published guidance on site visits, hearings, inquiries and events.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>

Guidance; **COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses**

Guidance for employees, employers and businesses in providing advice about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

## MINISTRY OF HOUSING COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MHCLG: Planning Newsletter: 4/20: 18 December;

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/946245/Chief\\_Planners\\_Newsletter\\_-\\_December\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946245/Chief_Planners_Newsletter_-_December_2020.pdf)

## COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Local government ethical standards – follow up to best practice recommendations; (8 January);

<https://cspl.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/local-government-ethical-standards-follow-up-to-best-practice-recommendations/>

## ONS

Covid and Social Impacts in UK Report: (8 January);

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/8january2021>

## INSTITUTE OF LICENSING

Met announces stricter Covid enforcement approach: (6 January):

<https://www.instituteoflicensing.org/news/met-announces-stricter-covid-enforcement-approach/>



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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Selected Daily Bulletin items:

11 January:

### **Cuts to local services due to COVID-19 costs**

Councils are facing having to make unprecedented cuts to local services in the coming years after COVID-19 left them with multimillion-pound black holes in their funding. The LGA said councils need a further funding package to address remaining pressures in 2020/21 as a result of the continued impact of the pandemic. An LGA spokesperson said: "We are calling on the Government to address in full the financial challenges facing councils as a result of COVID-19, including all lost income and local tax losses."

[Independent - Covid crisis will force councils to make 'deep cuts' to services to plug funding shortfall of up to £2.2bn](#)

### **Local elections set to be put on hold**

Local and mayoral elections which were scheduled for 6 May are likely to be delayed because of the coronavirus, it is reported. Mayors and council leaders were approached by civil servants last week to discuss whether it would be too dangerous to proceed, with almost 40 million people entitled to vote, while a Cabinet Office unit is reportedly working on contingency plans to hold the vote in June, July or September instead.

[Sunday Times: Spring polls set to be put on hold across Britain](#)

## THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT

Newsletter (8 January):

<https://mailchi.mp/lgiu.org/lgiu-this-week-8-january?e=a9126ea8e0>

## PARLIAMENT

### **The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2021**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/14/contents/made>

## ARTICLES REPORTS PODCASTS AND VIDEO CLIPS

IfG: Delaying Elections: (12 January);

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/delaying-elections>

The Guardian: May elections to go ahead in UK despite coronavirus concerns; (9 January):

Local and mayoral polls likely to be fraught with logistical problems, say officials. The coverage is unclear on this important issue for local authorities...delay is surely inevitable in order to prepare....

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jan/09/may-elections-to-go-ahead-in-uk-despite-coronavirus-concerns>

and see...



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[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/10/use-your-vote-but-bring-your-own-pen-uk-local-elections-made-covid-safe?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/10/use-your-vote-but-bring-your-own-pen-uk-local-elections-made-covid-safe?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

and...

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/blog/failure-prepare-not-reason-governments-postpone-elections>

IfG Newsletter: (8 January);

After securing a [Brexit deal](#) with the EU on Christmas Eve, the start of 2021 has not brought good cheer for the government. The closure of schools, part of the latest Covid-19 lockdown, marked yet another sudden [change of direction](#) from the prime minister.

Easing restrictions depends on the success of the [vaccine roll-out](#): [here are five things the government needs to do to get it right](#). And with continued restrictions requiring yet more Treasury support, our new paper says the government should [restrict access to coronavirus support schemes to businesses affected by the pandemic](#), rather than those adjusting to Brexit changes.

Events at home, however, have been overshadowed by the shocking scenes in the US. On this week's [podcast](#) we discuss what the Trump presidency tells us about the fragility of democracies and institutions when faced by populist leaders who reject the rules. (Links in the text above)

LGL; LLG News: Monitoring officers give lukewarm response to LGA Model Code of Conduct, unlikely to recommend implementation: LLG; (8 January):

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/396-governance-news/45810-monitoring-officers-give-lukewarm-response-to-lga-model-code-of-conduct-unlikely-to-recommend-implementation-llg>

CCN: England's largest councils call for urgent clarity on this year's local elections: (6 January);

<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/englands-largest-councils-call-for-urgent-clarity-on-this-years-local-elections/>

### OPENING BULLETIN LINKS:

Access to podcasts and video clips, if listed, may require you to first download relevant apps/programs.

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