



12 June 2020

Bidding on socially rented properties to restart

People on the council's housing register in Basingstoke and Deane will be able to start bidding for social rented homes again from Thursday 2 July.

In line with the Government's guidance following the COVID-19 outbreak, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's choice based lettings bidding system Homebid was temporarily paused in March.

But following careful consideration of Government advice and extensive work by the council and housing associations in the area, the advertising and letting of social housing properties to those people on the council's housing register will start again from Thursday 2 July. The first bidding cycle will run from midnight on Thursday 2 July to midnight on Monday 6 July and resume weekly.

The July start date provides housing associations with the time to ensure the correct procedures for viewing and advertising are in place and gives applicants time to prepare for bidding to start. The council will continue to monitor the system.

Borough's shopping areas set to reopen next week

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is working with Festival Place, The Malls and Basingstoke Together Business Improvement District to implement measures for the safe reopening of the town centre next week.

On 25 May, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced plans for non-essential retailers to reopen stores from Monday 15 June and as part of this, the council has been awarded £150,000 to introduce measures to keep shoppers safe.

Following the announcement, the council has been working with its partners in the town centre and other shopping areas across the borough to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for shoppers and businesses will be supported to understand the measures they need to take before they can reopen.

Shoppers will be encouraged to support local businesses while ensuring the safety of other visitors, business owners and their staff.

A number of measures will be put in place including walking on the left hand side of walkways in the town centre area, an increased cleaning schedule of public areas and extensive signage reminding shoppers what they need to do. The council is also working with partners to provide hand sanitising stations at the Top of the Town and in council-owned car parks.

Shoppers using council-owned car parks in the town centre are being urged to make card payments using the free RingGo app which is available to download from the App Store and Google Play.

There are a number of other ways to get to the town centre, including walking, cycling and public transport, with bus passengers encouraged to follow the social distancing measures in place at Basingstoke bus station and on the buses. Plans to provide additional temporary cycle storage in the town centre are also under way.

For the latest coronavirus updates from the borough council:

- Webpage www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Facebook [@BasingstokeGov](https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeGov)
- Twitter [@BasingstokeGov](https://twitter.com/BasingstokeGov)
- Resident news [*Basingstoke & Deane Today* online](#)

Community hubs network

- [Basingstoke Voluntary Action webpages](#)

Other useful links for advice and information

- [Government advice](#)
- [Health guidance](#)
- [Check your symptoms](#)
- [BBC](#)

If you do not have access to the internet and need specific advice or support, remember that the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline can be contacted on 0333 370 4000 and is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm.