

## **District Councillor's Report - May 2021**

### **Covid-19**

At the end of April we saw a rise in rates of Covid-19 across South Cambridgeshire. For the week ending 17th April, there were 18 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population, which is a 11% increase on the previous week. However, the district continues to have rates that are below both the regional and national average. Across Cambridgeshire as a whole, the Covid-19 case rate for the week ending 17th April is 29 cases per 100,000 which is a rise of 20% on the previous week and is above both the average for the region and for England. One person has died within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test in Cambridgeshire since 30 March, which is a significant reduction on numbers of deaths earlier in the year. Nearly 85,000 people have had their first dose of vaccination in South Cambridgeshire by 25th April, of just over 141,000 people over the age of 16. Nearly 37,000 have had their second dose.

### **Winter Support Grant: family fund**

The council is now able to access two schemes which can be used to refer residents in need of urgent food or fuel. The vouchers are worth up to £49 (per scheme) for a family, or £29 (per scheme) for an individual. The first scheme allows a voucher for food or fuel, and the second scheme is for a fuel voucher only. The schemes are funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the national Winter Support Grant. The vouchers can help residents who find themselves in a desperate situation to address their immediate need. We then work with the resident and other agencies to provide longer term advice and support. If you come across a resident in need of urgent food or fuel, please consider referring them into this scheme by emailing [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk) (we will then send you a simple form to complete).

### **Restart Grants open for local business applications**

Businesses affected by the post-Christmas national lockdown can now apply via the SCDC website for the Government's Restart Grants. The Restart Grants funding scheme was announced by Government on Wednesday 3 March 2021 and is designed to support businesses (including non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses) that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services for the general public. Grants of up to £6,000 will be paid to non-essential retail business premises to help them to reopen safely. In addition, grants of up to £18,000 will be allocated to hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym business premises, which may open but will be more impacted by restrictions when they do reopen. To receive the Restart Grant businesses, need to complete an online application. Details on the Restart Grants and how to apply can be found on the website:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-support-for-business/restart-grants/>. The application closure date for the Restart Grant funding scheme is Wednesday 30 June 2021.