

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

In addition to the government updates this week, we have news on VisitBritain/VisitEngland's Recovery Webinar programme and a new platform, Digital Boost, run by digital experts offering free one to one digital support to small businesses.

We are still awaiting VisitEngland's new industry standard, which will be available once the government announces their new guidance for the hospitality sector. As soon as we have this information, we will share it in a bespoke email.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on [visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters](https://www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters)

Thanet District Council

Update on lifeguard cover

Lifeguard cover is already in place at Viking Bay, Botany Bay and Joss Bay, and will commence on Margate Main Sands on 20 June. The RNLI is hoping to increase its lifeguard provision early in July.

The reopening of our high streets

Are you a business that has reopened this week? If so, please make sure you are displaying your blue Covid-19 poster to show you have taken the necessary 5 steps? You can download the poster [here](#)

For more support and guidance on reopening safely, go to [thanet.gov.uk/highstreets](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/highstreets) You will see that a new video has been added with critical information from Trading Standards, Kent Fire and Rescue, Environmental Service and water company advice. You can view the video [here](#)

To coincide with the re-opening of the high streets, the following toilets in the district have reopened:

- Birchington - Alpha Road
- Westgate - Station Road
- Margate - Harbour Arm, Portakabin (clock tower), The Centre
- Cliftonville - Harold Road
- Broadstairs - Clock Tower (including bandstand), Crofts Place, Viking Bay chalet block
- Ramsgate - Cavendish Street

This is in addition to the main beach toilets that are already open, which we updated you on at the end of last month.

Government Advice

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme guidance updated:

On 12 June, revised guidance was published giving more detail on forthcoming changes to the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#). This includes:

- From 1 July, employers can only claim for employees who have previously been furloughed for at least three consecutive weeks between 1 March–30 June.
- From 1 July, employers can bring furloughed employees back to work for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim the CJRS grant for the hours not worked.
- From 1 August, the level of the grant will be gradually reduced. No grant will be available for Class 1 employer NICs or pension contributions from 1 August, these contributions will remain payable by the employer.
- From 1 September, employers will also be asked to contribute towards the cost of their furloughed employees' wages to ensure they continue to receive at least 80% of their wages for the time they are on furlough.
- Parents returning from maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption and parental bereavement leave after 10 June are exempt from the cut-off date for new entrants. This applies to employers who have previously submitted a claim for any other employee (between 1 March-30 June). Employees need to have started the leave before 10 June and be returning after 10 June and need to have been on their employers' PAYE payroll on or before 19 March 2020.

HMRC are running a second webinar on **Friday 19 June, 11:45-12:45** - giving an overview of the changes to the scheme, how employers will be affected, flexible furloughing, key dates and support available. You can sign up [here](#).

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme guidance update:

Updated guidance is available on the extension of the [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) (SEISS). Eligible individuals are able to claim a second and final grant in August.

- Those eligible for the first grant must claim on or before 13 July 2020.
- Applications for the second grant will open in August.
- The eligibility criteria remain the same as the first SEISS grant.
- Those claiming for the second grant will have to confirm that their business has been adversely affected on or after 14 July 2020.
- Individuals can claim for the second grant even if they did not make a claim for the first grant.

Guidance published on inland and coastal boats:

New guidance has also been published on using a [boat inland or on the coast](#).

Review the latest guidance for other transport and travel sectors [here](#).

Updated guidance for holiday accommodation providers on accommodating those arriving into the UK

Businesses providing holiday accommodation can provide rooms to those required to self-isolate because they have arrived in England from outside the UK, or arrived in England from elsewhere in the UK but have within the preceding 14 days been outside the UK. Read the guidance [here](#).

Other Government updates:

- The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has drawn together [important security considerations for businesses in financial distress](#), including those in insolvency or administration, either directly or as a third party.
- The [working safely during coronavirus guidance](#) has been updated to reflect industry feedback in the areas of managing product handling and returns, the test and trace service, safer travel and managing security risks.
- A new section on returning office equipment has been added to the [Check which expenses are taxable if your employees work from home](#) due to coronavirus (COVID-19) page.
- The [High Streets Task Force](#) has announced that they will provide access to tools, training, information and advice for high streets across England as part of the government's efforts to get shops back in business safely from 15 June. This support is open to local councils and all organisations involved with high streets and will include free access to online training programmes, webinars, data and intelligence on topics including recovery planning and coordination, public space and place marketing. This can also be accessed via <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/highstreets/>

[VisitBritain/VisitEngland](#)

New industry standard

The new industry standard will be a call to action from across the industry – it is critical to early recovery. The standard aims to:

- Give confidence to the businesses, support and encourage them to put clear processes in place
- Give reassurance to the visitor – clear consumer messaging isn't enough and needs to be backed up by a consistent and robust process followed by businesses
- Aid reassurance to local residents – that tourism is not the enemy
- Avoid confusion in messaging and recognition by offering a nationwide consumer 'marque' that the whole industry can get behind
- Deliver global recovery best practice

Recovery Webinar Programme

VisitBritain/VisitEngland have announced that this programme will launch on Tuesday 30 June. The programme will start with Spotlight on inbound and domestic research and insights – taking a look at their latest trackers, and consumer sentiment surveys.

Drawing on expert insight from within VisitBritain/VisitEngland and across the travel industry the free webinar programme offers practical advice for tourism businesses and valuable data-led insight from their global teams.

Keynote speakers will include Foresight Factory, Green Tourism, Get Your Guide, City Nation Place, Google Digital Garage, and Buffalo 7.

For full details, see VisitBritain/VisitEngland's [Recovery Webinars page](#).

Update to the Business Advice Hub:

VisitBritain/VisitEngland have published a new page on their Business Advice Hub for [businesses getting ready to open](#). The page includes information, advice and links to guidance on reopening along with practical information on operating under social distancing guidelines.

See advice and information for businesses affected by COVID-19 on their [Business Advice Hub](#).

[Visit Kent](#)

Summer Industry Update - Friday, 19 June, 3.30pm to 5pm

During this event, Visit Kent's CEO Deirdre Wells OBE will provide an update following the sector beginning to reopen, along with the latest information to support destination recovery. [Click here](#) to register.

[Other News](#)

Digital Boost

A new platform called [Digital Boost](#) has been launched. The platform hosts a community of digital experts who will offer one-to-one digital support to small businesses free of charge.

[Tourism Service News](#)

If you have key messages or notices that you would like us to share on social media, please email us beforehand on tourism@thanet.gov.uk to enable us time to schedule them in. Please remember that our @visitthanet accounts are consumer facing, so content has to be relevant to this audience.

[Your News](#)

Broadstairs Food Festival

Sadly Broadstairs Food Festival 2020 has been cancelled. Those who have loved the festival over the years are being asked to show that love by giving a small contribution to the festival's future through their ['GoFundMe'](#) page.

Margate NOW 2020 Open Call

Margate Now is inviting applications to take part in the seventh production celebration of their annual arts festival. Applications close midday on Tuesday 23 June. Find out more [here](#).

POW! open forum meetings - be part of POW! 2021

If you would like to find out more about POW! 2021 or if you have an idea for an event or exhibition that could become part of POW! Thanet's March 2021 festival, whether in visual or performing arts, they would love you to join them for one of their open forum meetings, which will be held on Zoom.

Wednesday 1st July 6pm-7.30pm - [Register Here](#)

Wednesday 8th July 2pm-3.30pm - [Register Here](#)