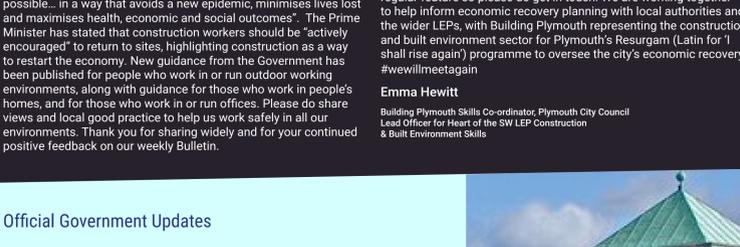


COVID-19: News and Information for the local Construction Community

Issue 8: 13th May 2020

Our intention is to provide a united front to help support local construction and built environment businesses and individuals, through the ongoing repercussions of the COVID-19 coronavirus for our sector.

Through this bulletin, we plan to provide a regular centralised, factual, relevant and robust source of official information. We can share intelligence to help us both now and to plan for the future. We want to create a forum for feedback with Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council. We will stay positive about our world post COVID-19 and we will help each other to do so through staying in touch.



Welcome!

Hello, the Government has now published its COVID-19 Recovery Strategy which sets out the plan to return life to as close to normal as possible for as many people as possible, as fast and fairly as possible... in a way that avoids a new epidemic, minimises lives lost and maximises health, economic and social outcomes... The Prime Minister has stated that construction workers should be "actively encouraged" to return to sites, highlighting construction as a way to restart the economy. New guidance from the Government has been published for people who work in or run outdoor working environments, along with guidance for those who work in people's homes, and for those who work in or run offices. Please do share views and local good practice to help us work safely in all our environments. Thank you for sharing widely and for your continued positive feedback on our weekly Bulletin.

For this issue we welcome Lance Chatfield, Academy Manager at City College Plymouth to share his 'Construction Viewpoint'. We invite input to represent all parts of our sector to contribute to this regular feature so please do get in touch. We are working together to help inform economic recovery planning with local authorities and the wider LEPs, with Building Plymouth representing the construction and built environment sector for Plymouth's Resurgam (Latin for 'I shall rise again') programme to oversee the city's economic recovery. #wevillmetagain

Emma Hewitt
Building Plymouth Skills Co-ordinator, Plymouth City Council
Lead Officer for Heart of the SW LEP Construction & Built Environment Skills

Official Government Updates

Latest summary of support available from UK government

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

FAQs on UK government support measures

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is now available through participating lenders

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

12/05/20 - Chancellor extends furlough scheme until October

The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will remain open until the end of October with furloughed workers across UK continuing to receive 80% of their current salary, up to £2,500. From August there will be new flexibility, enabling furloughed workers to return to work part-time, with employers being asked to pay a percentage towards the salaries of furloughed staff.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11/05/20 - Government publishes 'Covid-19 secure' site guidelines

Guidance published for people who work in or run outdoor working environments

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11/05/20 - Guidance for people working in, visiting or delivering to other people's homes

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11/05/20 - Guidance for people who work in or run offices, contact centres and similar indoor environments

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11/05/20 - Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do (from 13/05/20)

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11 /05/20 - Prime Minister wants work to restart on all building sites

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

12/05/20 - Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

04/05/20 - Guidance for social distancing in the workplace

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

07/05/20 - Guidance on responsible contractual behaviour in the performance and enforcement of contracts impacted by the COVID-19 emergency

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

06/05/20 - Business rates revaluation postponed

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

09/05/20 - Cycling walking package to create new era for cycling and walking

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Webinars:

Find out if you can use the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme, or how to make a claim on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

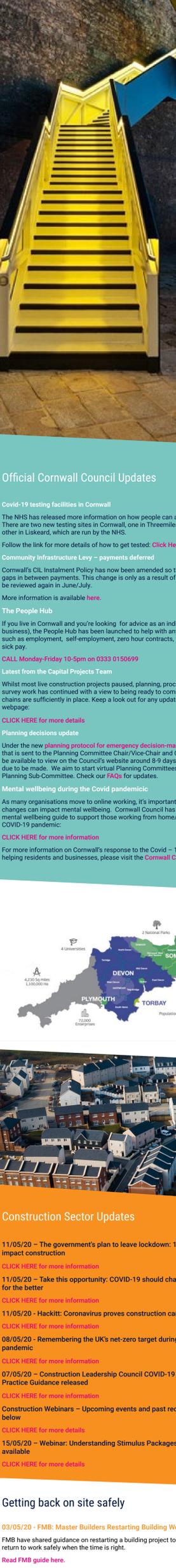
[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme: Providing an overview of the scheme, this webinar looks at who can claim, when to start paying SSP, employees you can claim for, making a claim, keeping records, and more.

[Choose a date and time](#)

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - How to make a claim: This guides you through making a claim, including the essential information you need, what to do before you make your claim, calculating and processing your claim.

[Choose a date and time](#)



Official Plymouth City Council updates

11/05/20 - PCC latest Coronavirus Business Advice for Local Businesses

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

07/05/20 - Supporting Plymouth businesses through the Coronavirus Pandemic

Councillor Tudor Evans Leader of Plymouth City Council, and portfolio holder for Economic Development, shares an update on the support that the Council has delivered to businesses this week, and the focus for the coming week as well as Resurgam our plan for supporting Plymouth businesses back to work

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

07/05/20 - Plymouth City Council Local Planning Authority have re-commenced a limited site visit service and are posting planning site notices

Case officers will carry out limited site visits and only when it is safe to do so. Officers will be following a set of detailed guidelines informed by Public Health England and our own guidance and will advise applicants as necessary whether a site visit is possible and the additional information required to help assess the application.

Planning site notices will be posted and supplemented by neighbour notification where appropriate. However be aware that when a detailed site visit isn't possible due to social distancing reasons and the case officer considers it is essential to enable a decision to be made, then a decision will be delayed accordingly. Officers will be conducting all site visits on their own and will not be able to hold any site meetings or engage in discussions with applicants or agents when on site.

Planning Officers will not be conducting internal inspections and will only access the development site if it can be done without going through an individual's house. If this makes it impossible to undertake a site visit then the site visit will need to be delayed.

We will normally be considering all pre applications remotely so if submitting a pre-application enquiry, it is particularly important to provide visual material to help us assess all pre applications. Whilst planning and building regulation applications will be processed as quickly as possible there will be substantial delays and we thank you for your understanding at this difficult time.

For more information on our position on site visits please contact the case officer or contact:

Building Control on 01752 304343 or email buildcon@plymouth.gov.uk

PCC: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/>

Visit: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/coronaviruscovid19informationaboutplanningandbuildingcontrol0>

COVID-19 testing facilities in Plymouth and Devon

There are three drive through sites in Devon for use by keyworkers including construction workers who have been given appointments, via the local coordination processes or via self-referral:

Seaton Barracks, Plymouth and Honiton Road Park and Ride, Exeter.

To get tested [click here](#).

David Draffan, Service Director of Economic Development

David Draffan, Service Director of Economic Development, Plymouth City Council has released his latest Blog on LinkedIn which brings you up to speed with PCC action and response to the government announcements:

07/05/20 [CLICK HERE for the blog](#)

You can register directly for the PCC Economic Development newsletter here:

[CLICK HERE for the Economic Development Newsletter](#)

Feedback

As part of Plymouth City Council's resilience work we are collating feedback from businesses within the city to share economic impacts of Covid-19 which will feed into central Government to lobby for sector support for businesses in difficulty. If you have feedback to share on construction sector impact please can you email emma.hewitt@plymouth.gov.uk. Any information that is provided and shared with Plymouth City Council will only be used specifically for understanding the business impacts of COVID-19 and will not be used beyond this critical period.

Useful Links from Plymouth City Council:

- For Business support [CLICK HERE](#)
- For the COVID-19 webpage including service updates, ways to get support and the latest guidance on keeping yourself and your family safe [CLICK HERE](#)
- For a range of ideas and resources to keep all members of the family occupied and entertained during the lockdown [CLICK HERE](#)
- For guidance on what you can and can't do during the coronavirus outbreak [CLICK HERE](#)
- For guidance on staying at home with a possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection [CLICK HERE](#)
- If you know someone who needs help? Visit our support web page [CLICK HERE](#)

Official Cornwall Council Updates

Covid-19 testing facilities in Cornwall

The NHS has released more information on how people can arrange a test in Cornwall. There are two new testing sites in Cornwall, one in Threemilestone near Truro and the other in Liskeard, which are run by the NHS.

Follow the link for more details on how to get tested: [Click Here](#)

Community Infrastructure Levy - payments deferred

Cornwall's CIL Instalment Policy has now been amended so that developers have longer gaps in between payments. This change is only as a result of the outbreak, and so will be reviewed again in June/July.

More information is available [here](#).

The People Hub

If you live in Cornwall and you're looking for advice as an individual (as opposed to a business), the People Hubs has been launched to help with any queries regarding issues such as employment, self-employment, zero hour contracts, furloughing, retraining and sick pay.

CALL Monday-Friday 10-5pm on 0333 0150699

Latest from the Capital Projects Team

Whilst most live construction projects paused, planning, procurement, design and survey work has continued with a view to being ready to commence as soon as supply chains are sufficient in place. Keep a look out for any updates on our Capital projects webpage:

[CLICK HERE for more details](#)

Planning decisions update

Under the new **planning protocol for emergency decision-making**, the officer report that is sent to the Planning Committee Chair/Vice-Chair and Committee Members will be available to view on the Council's website around 8-9 days before the decision is due to be made. We aim to start virtual Planning Committees on 1 June with the Sub-Planning Sub-Committee. Check our [FAQs](#) for updates.

Mental wellbeing being the Covid pandemic

As many organisations move to online working, it's important to think about how these changes can impact mental wellbeing. Cornwall Council has put together a helpful mental wellbeing guide to support those working from home/in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic:

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

For more information on Cornwall's response to the Covid - 19 pandemic and how we're helping residents and businesses, please visit the [Cornwall Council Website](#).

News from the Heart of the South West LEP

30/04/20 - Read the latest HS/WLEP business resilience newsletter

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

06/05/20 - Latest Growth Hub Newsletter

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Skills Support for Redundancy

Funded, tailored training to support individuals and businesses

Visit the website to find out more [Covid19 business support](#)

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)



Construction Sector Updates

11/05/20 - The government's plan to leave lockdown: 10 things that will impact construction

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11/05/20 - Take this opportunity. COVID-19 should change our industry for the better

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

11/05/20 - Hackitt: Coronavirus proves construction can change "at pace"

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

08/05/20 - Remembering the UK's net-zero target during the Covid-19 pandemic

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

07/05/20 - Construction Leadership Council COVID-19 Contractual Best Practice Guidance released

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Construction Webinars - Upcoming events and past recordings are listed below

[CLICK HERE for more details](#)

15/05/20 - Webinar: Understanding Stimulus Packages & Incentives available

[CLICK HERE for more details](#)

Latest information from CITB

05/05/20 - Site Safety Plus distance learning

Training providers are continuing to support construction employers with essential training during this difficult time. Early signs show that the five CITB Site Safety Plus learning courses providing distance learning are having a positive impact for training providers, learners and employers.

Find a Site Safety Plus course [here](#)

05/05/20 - Tool Box Talks

CITB will shortly launch a Toolbox Talk, aligned with CLC Site Operating Procedures (Version 3), following feedback from industry. The aim of the Toolbox Talk is to support industry to ensure safety guidance is followed during COVID-19. It also includes a range of other useful documents including interactive site compliance checklist, risk assessment templates and weekly compliance checklist.

CITB's COVID-19 updates page is being refreshed daily and includes information on a range of subjects, including Grants, Funding and Apprenticeships.

CITB urges all employers not to dismiss any apprentices without first contacting the apprenticeship team: apprenticeships.covid19@citb.co.uk

Our local Apprenticeship Officer is: Darren.Murrish@citb.co.uk

3. The most challenging aspect to date?
Before the initial lockdown announcement, many departments within City College Plymouth started to prepare for online delivery, ensuring that the current technology was available and staff had all that they needed to continue teaching at home. This task in itself was no easy fix as many subjects are vocally based and this many of the practical and exam-based assessments had to be rewritten, checked and verified before being re-released to students. This continues to be a challenge as the government and various awarding bodies release daily guidance, however, the college is doing all that it can to support its student community, by posting regular updates, staying in touch via various online classroom sessions, and contacting those who do not engage to check that all is well.

4. Positives you have been able to take from the situation?

After reading recent online articles such as the [link here](#), it is encouraging to see that governments across the world will be looking to use the construction industry as a way of plugging the economic gap. We all know that this in itself will come with many challenges such as how the industry maintains social distancing measures, staff sickness, and access to skilled workers, however, the college will be doing all that it can to support the industry as it returns to daily life. Now more than ever with the loss of many EU workers it is time to consider training as a way to plug some of the gaps that this pandemic has caused. Training in itself comes in many forms, from your traditional trade apprenticeships through to those wanting to upskill or retrain. With many other industries not expected to recover for quite some time, now could be the time to tap into an alternative market encouraging those who have not considered construction as a career path in the past to do so now. Alongside the usual trades, brickwork, plastering, painting and decorating etc, the college also offers a level 3 BTEC in Construction and the Built Environment, plus both construction and civil engineering university-level courses at level 4 (HNC), level 5 (foundation degree) and level 6 (BSc Honors).

5. Best advice you can give to others?

Although it may not seem a priority, training, retraining and upskilling staff must continue so that the construction industry is future-ready. With large scale infrastructure projects on the very close horizon, such as the enlargement and refurbishment of Devonport Royal Dockyard's 10 dock, amongst other largescale Plymouth projects, now is the time to consider your training plans for September 2020. Even for those staff who have been furloughed training can continue. Although the recent announcement from the Health Secretary Matt Hancock suggests that certain elements of construction can return, some being able to continue training is key and City College Plymouth is here to support you with all aspects of training, apprenticeship recruitment and training advice.

**Level 6 Civil Engineering BSc (Hons) available at present however, we are working with the University of Plymouth to ensure that students can progress through the construction pathway.*

Getting back on site safely

03/05/20 - FMB: Master Builders Restarting Building Works

FMB has shared guidance on restarting a building project to prepare to return to work safely when the time is right.

[Read FMB guidance here](#).

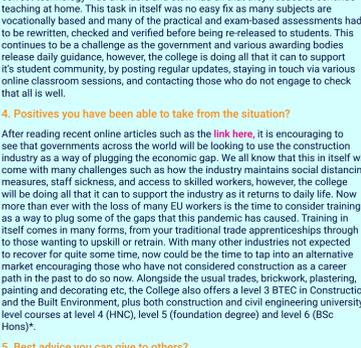
07/05/20 - COVID-19 and Engineering Services: guidance

Build UK Trade Association members BESA and ECA have worked together to produce guidance on working in close proximity for the engineering services sector, where the activity is essential and unavoidable, and a distance of two metres cannot be maintained.

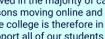
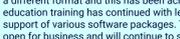
[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

05/05/20 - "Social distancing" bracelet warns workers if they are too close together

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)



Local Construction Viewpoint



Lance Chatfield

Company: City College Plymouth

Location: Plymouth

Company Role: Academy Manager | Higher Technology Skills | Technology, Marine and Renewables

Company Type: Further Education College

1. What has the effect been currently to your company / business?

Although all schools and colleges are closed (except for those supporting children of keyworkers and vulnerable children) delivery of lessons has continued all be it through a range of various methods and forums. From a higher education perspective lessons have continued either through the use of online tutorials or with the support of lecturers posting YouTube videos and support documents via the use of Google classroom. With many further education construction apprentices being furloughed it was important for us to maintain engagement and ensure that our students kept up with their training, all be it in a different format and this has been achieved in the majority of cases. Higher education training has continued with lessons moving online and with the support of various software packages. The college is therefore in all respects open for business and will continue to support all of our students through to the end of the current lockdown.

2. How has the situation impacted on you and your colleagues?

Day to day working has been very different and many of had to adapt to a whole new way of thinking. Although the college has utilised virtual learning environments (VLEs) for many years, the move towards the use of Google classroom last year was a step towards the use of blended learning for many of the college's programmes. The format is also used to send regular announcements to staff and through the use of Google meet, day to day meetings have taken place all be it from our own homes. Alongside this, the college has been keen to ensure that all staff are supported, especially those who live alone or enjoy the social interactions that work provides and have therefore put on tea and/or afternoon cake virtual get-togethers just for staff across the college to meet and talk about subjects other than work. The health and wellbeing of all staff must remain as much a priority now as it has always been and the college is striving to ensure that all staff (as well as our students) are supported throughout the lockdown period.

Proud to Help

We would like to share a spotlight of how the construction and built environment industry is supporting national efforts in fighting the Coronavirus.

Thermal recognition cameras are now on TClarke sites

Some of you may have read about the installation of thermal and optical cameras in hospitals in Cornwall. These cameras, which have fever-scanning capabilities are also useful on other sites and TClarke Ltd has been installing them at building sites that they are working on throughout London. See this video for a visual demonstration of how the cameras can detect elevated temperatures in visitors and staff as they enter a site.

[CLICK HERE for more details](#)

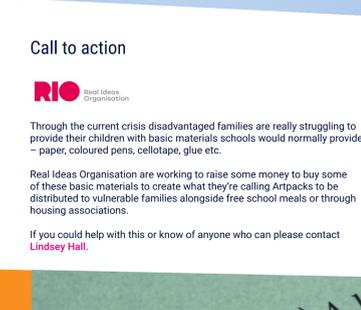
Brunei Recycling shows their support for our NHS, Heroes working on the Frontline to keep us all safe. Thank you NHS, and thank you Brunei Recycling for keeping the flag held high from the construction industry.

[CLICK HERE to watch the video](#)

Legal & HR Matters

Useful guides and contacts:

- [CLICK HERE for Foot Anstey information](#)
- [CLICK HERE for Ashfords information](#)
- [CLICK HERE for Michelmores information](#)
- [CLICK HERE for Womble Bond Dickinson](#)



Ideas whilst being on Furlough Leave

07/05/20 - More free digital publications for library users

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Plymouth History Festival launches online

You can do some amazing exploring of our city's amazing history every day 8 - 31 May. Highlights will include online exhibitions and tours, research articles, profiles of local history societies and organisations, links to podcasts and fun weekly quizzes.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Call to action



Through the current crisis disadvantaged families are really struggling to provide their children with basic materials schools would normally provide - paper, coloured pens, cellophane, glue etc.

Real Ideas Organisation are working to make it easy for anyone to buy some of these basic materials to create what they're calling Armpacks to be distributed to vulnerable families alongside free school meals or through housing associations.

If you could help with this or you know of anyone who can please contact Lindsay@rio.org.uk



Contact Us

For any queries, feedback and support:

[CLICK HERE to contact Building Plymouth](#)

Other key contacts include:

- Emma Hewitt, Building Plymouth
- Kate Mills, The Building Forum Devon & Cornwall
- Gaylene Price, South West Women in Construction
- Peter Everitt, Constructing Excellence Plymouth Club
- Mike Borkowski, Constructing Excellence Exeter Club
- David Bayliss, First Thursday Club Plymouth