

Cllr Kim Forward Weekly Vlog 09.10.20

Hi, it's Kim here with this week's update from Hastings Borough Council

We had our monthly Cabinet meeting this week where we discuss and make decisions and we received good news about some funding bids.

We agreed a recovery plan which sets out our priorities as we aim to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and which will form the basis of how we work with partners to develop a town wide recovery plan.

If you look on our website, you'll find this plan in the agenda reports pack for October's Cabinet meeting.

We are leading a bid for money from the government's Next Steps Accommodation Project which aims to help reduce the number of rough sleepers returning to the streets.

The government has confirmed that East Sussex has been awarded just under £1m from one part of the fund, and we are waiting to hear about the other part. This money will help us to keep providing temporary accommodation for people in need and increase the support we offer to help people to find a longer-term home.

We are working hard to help support rough sleepers in Hastings and this work is crucial as our winter shelters won't be able to open this year because of COVID-19. You can find out more on our website.

We have been successful with a bid to the Government's Green Homes Grant which will help households living in fuel poverty with home energy efficiency improvements. We led this bid on behalf of the East Sussex councils and the £1m will be spent on modifying some homes across the county.

After a positive partnership bid to the Safer Streets fund for central St Leonards, the team are now working to gather ideas from residents and businesses for how to reduce theft and generally improve safety in the area. So if you live in central St Leonards you may be contacted by them.

In other news I am pleased that our Museum and Art Gallery have recently developed an Indigenous Engagement Policy and we are amongst the first museums in the country to be taking this important step forward. You can read the policy on Hastings Museum and Art Gallery's website.

We are all still living with the threat of COVID-19 and there has been a rise in the number of cases locally over the last few weeks and we have seen the closure of The Hastings Academy.

if you have symptoms, no matter how mild, you must self-isolate and book a test as soon as possible. Our website has guidance and lists the symptoms and tells you how to book a test.

You should be able to have a test done locally this weekend as a mobile testing unit is coming to our town.

It is so important that we keep social distancing, wearing face coverings and washing our hands to stop the spread of the virus in our town.

Thank you for listening and please stay safe.