

STAFF NEWS



www.glasgow.gov.uk/staffupdates



12 October 2020

Business Travel

As a result of the pandemic, staff are not travelling on council business as often as before Covid-19 but some essential travel is still required.

If you require to travel for council business, please be aware of procedures.

All business travel for the council is arranged by the Executive Compliance Unit (ECU) in Financial Services. The ECU is able to make efficient and cost effective business travel arrangements including best use of "no frills" airlines, on-line booking tools, e-ticketing and purchasing power opportunities.

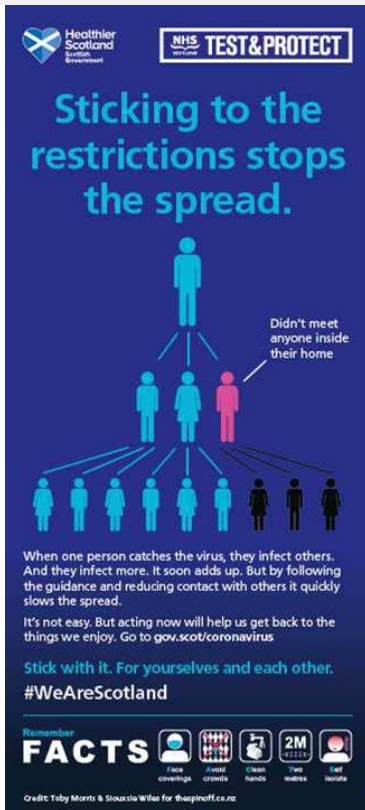
In order to protect the council's interests, the costs for any business travel or accommodation, arranged by employees out with the ECU will not be routinely reimbursed by the council. If booking through an external body is unavoidable, consideration may be given however this will only apply in exceptional circumstances and requires approval in advance from the Head of Executive Compliance.

More information

The council's Business Travel Policy provides a clear framework for all staff to work within, whilst at the same time recognising the flexibility required to ultimately achieve best value for money.

<http://connect.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24762&p=0>

Self-isolation campaign



The Scottish Government has launched its **Self-Isolation Campaign** which aims to reinforce the importance of self-isolation in stopping the spread of coronavirus.

The three week campaign is running across TV, radio, press and digital channels.

The campaign focuses on the following key messages:

- You should self-isolate straight away if:
 - You or someone in your household has symptoms.
 - You have been abroad and need to quarantine.
 - You have been advised to do so by the NHS or the through the Protect Scotland App.
- Don't go for one last shop or wait for a test result to decide.
- If you don't have help nearby, you can call the **freephone** National Assistance Helpline on **0800 111 4000**.

[View the Self-Isolation TV Ad Here](#)

Regenerating Robroyston



David Lawson, Emma Thomson and Mic Ralph at the new Robroyston train station.

The council is a key partner in a £235 million regeneration programme for Robroyston – including the creation of a new train station and Park and Ride facility (with EV charging points).

The station, the city's 60th, opened in December 2019 – connecting the north-east of Glasgow, particularly Robroyston and Millerston, to the city centre in 10 minutes and Edinburgh in an hour - providing opportunities for an expanding local community to better access education, leisure and employment.

In August this year a new pedestrian and cycle route over the railway opened – supporting our active and sustainable travel objectives.

Council support and funding

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The council forward funded up to £10 million to the project which was managed by teams within Development and Regeneration Services (Planning and Building Standards, Project Management and Design and Property and Land Services), Neighbourhoods and Sustainability and the Chief Executive's Department (Legal Services).

Donald McPartlin Senior Solicitor said "This complex project presented a wide range of legal issues and required a number of different parties, both within the council and externally, to work together to allow the new station to be completed."

A partnership approach

Mic Ralph, Transport Planning Manager at DRS and the council's lead officer on the project said: "Completing the project required agreement across the partners involved which included Transport Scotland, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Abellio ScotRail, Network Rail and the private sector."

Mic continued: "There were many challenges to overcome including complex legal agreements, land ownership issues and challenging ground conditions."

Better connected community

Agreement for the construction of the new station has also led to a wider regeneration of the area including 1,600 planned new family homes, a network of new roads and Park and Ride facilities with 263 spaces.

The project was nominated for the Scottish Transport Awards and shortlisted for the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators in Scotland (SOLAR) awards.

Mic concluded: "We're absolutely delighted with the success of the project. Better connections to and from Glasgow city centre are essential for our city's economic well-being and attracting business."

"This is a great example of what can be achieved when we work across services and in partnership with other agencies and the private sector. It provides a good template for future station delivery that can be used by other local authorities and developers."



Get on your bike – with tax benefits



Did you know that the council's Cycle-to-Work Scheme is available now?

The scheme is open to all staff across the whole council family and offers tax savings on new bikes and equipment; giving you an ideal opportunity to get about by bike.

In the current situation, cycling can help you to adhere to the government's social distancing advice, offering the perfect alternative to other ways of getting about. For those who are visiting the workplace, most have secure cycle parking facilities

The scheme complements work that our [Spaces for People](#) team have been doing and ties in with new cycle routes put in place to make cycling easier for getting around.

Looking forward, when lockdown restrictions are eased across the country, there will still be a need to maintain physical distancing precautions. For some of us, this is an opportunity to change our travel habits and be more active and healthy in how we get about.

Dr Collin Little, Sustainable Transport Officer at Neighbourhoods and Sustainability said: "Since introduction, over 2,000 staff have benefitted from the scheme. It's not only about commuting, it's a great way of getting around, helps as part of daily exercise and has been proven to help with mental wellbeing."

"In addition to better health you save on fuel and parking costs. It's also pollution and carbon free, supporting our city's ambition to reduce carbon emissions."

"The contract with Wider Plan was recently renewed by our Corporate Procurement Unit, giving us a scheme until summer 2023."

How to register

- To register, go to www.workplacebikes.com and enter the access code - **S196242G** - in the box provided.
- If you have any questions about the scheme, contact the Wider Plan customer services department on **0800 612 7110** or email info@workplacebikes.com

More information

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- To find out more about how the scheme works, what's included and how to apply at [Cycle2WorkInfo](#)
- Find out more about getting around by bike at www.glasgow.gov.uk/cycling
- Find out more about Sustainable and Active Travel at www.smartertravelgla.co.uk
- Find out more about Spaces for People at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/spacesforpeople>

Support for families - new online directory



Parent Club have developed a new online directory which brings together a whole host of helpful organisations who provide advice and support to families in Scotland.

So no matter what your family looks like or what you may be going through, you are not alone, there is support available for you and your family at every stage of your journey.

A fantastic resource and it is also really easy to use - you can find the directory here <https://www.parentclub.scot/family-support-directory>

World Menopause Day – 18 October



Every year, the International Menopause Society hosts this worldwide event to raise awareness of the menopause and of the support options available.

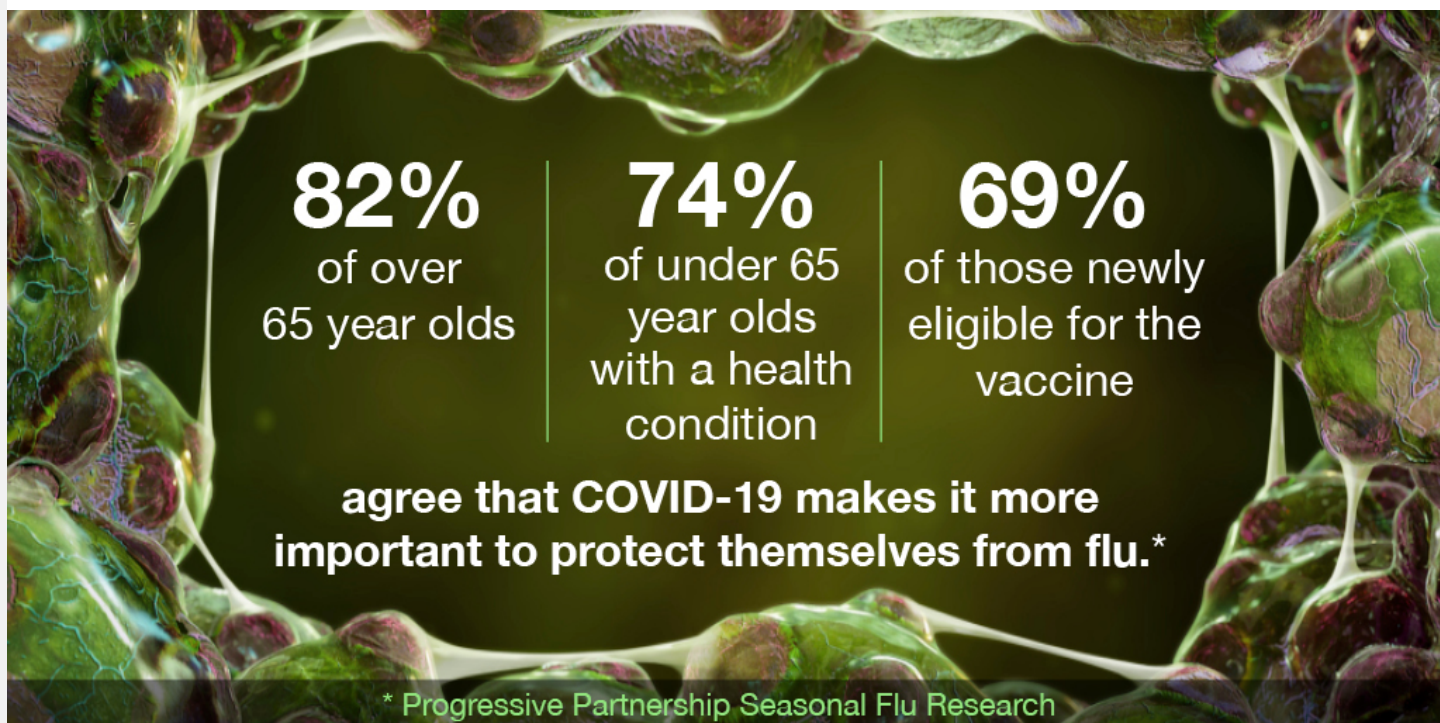
The theme for World Menopause Day 2020 is Premature Ovarian Insufficiency (POI), which occurs when a woman's ovaries run out of eggs before the age of 40 years.

You can find out more about POI and other menopause information, support and resources on the [International Menopause Society website](#).

More information

Visit our menopause awareness page on Connect [here](#), and read our [Guide to Menopause and the workplace](#) which provides practical information and support available to help our employees manage symptoms of the menopause at work.

Flu is serious - protect yourself



It's that time of year to protect yourself against flu.

The Scottish Government's 'Flu is Serious' campaign was launched on 1 October. It will be promoted for six weeks on TV, radio, press and digital media.

The campaign aims to highlight the seriousness of flu, especially with COVID-19 around and importance of getting vaccinated. It also aims to inform new audiences eligible for the flu vaccine, including:

- social care workers
- household contacts of those that were shielding, and
- from December 55-64 year olds will also be eligible.

NHS Scotland strongly recommends those eligible get their free flu vaccine this year, for three reasons:

1. Flu can be serious and life threatening. Every year thousands of people in Scotland are hospitalised because of flu, with people 65 and over being at particular risk.
2. To reduce the risk of you spreading flu to friends and family.
3. To reduce the pressure that a spike in seasonal flu would put on our NHS on top of COVID-19.

More information/ find out if you are eligible

Find out if you're eligible for the free flu vaccine and how it will be delivered in your area. Visit nhsinform.scot/flu

- If you are offered a vaccine, you can find out about local arrangements – not all vaccinations will take place at GP surgeries - at www.nhsinform.scot/flu or phone **0800 22 44 88**
- You can [View the TV ad here](#)



Autumn Virtual Walking Challenge – get set

active^{>>}**staff** Walking Challenge Autumn 2020

Monday 12 October - Monday 09 November

The challenge got off to a great start today (Monday 12 October) with 28 teams from across the council family signed up to take part.

All walkers are currently enjoying a virtual stroll in the Spanish sunshine across the Plaza Mayor in Salamanca, burning some calories, getting fitter and potentially winning some prizes along the way.

Steps make prizes

This week's Active Walking Challenge prize will see all registered and active teams automatically entered into a draw with each winning team member given a £20 Trespass voucher.

And that's not all. At the end of the challenge we are also offering some great prizes to the top three teams from across the council family.

For the council family team with the highest number of steps this week we're giving each team member a rucksack to pack all their walking essentials. For the second team, each member will receive a head torch to support night time walking. And for the team with the third highest total, each member will receive a set of walking poles and water bottle.

There is still time to sign up

To register follow the instructions at <https://activestaff.worldwalking.co.uk/>

Once registered you can either create or join a team of up to five colleagues and start walking.

I have taken part in Walking Challenges in the past, do I need to re-register?

Yes. We no longer have details from previous challenges so everyone will need to re-register.

More information

Find out more on the Walking Challenge and /or COVID-19 guidance at [Help](#) or have a look at [Hints, tips and other bits](#)



Got a story to share, a colleague to thank or a photograph to publish?

We'd like to hear **from you!**

Insider@glasgow.gov.uk



Make a tax free donation to your favourite charity



Did you know you can donate to any UK registered charity with your Payroll Giving donation? It's the simple, safe and tax free way to support your chosen charity. You can give more for less and help your charity continue their vital work. Thank you to all those who already donate you are playing an essential part in keeping these charities open.

Click here <https://udon8.org/glasgowcitycouncil> and join the thousands of employees making a difference each payday. Your charity needs you!

We're still recruiting

Current vacancies

- Internal vacancies are on [myjobscotland](https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/).
- For vacancies in home care, facilities management and catering click [here](#).

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