

News release: 2 June 2020

Reopening high streets safely

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has awarded Lichfield District Council £92,501 so it can help businesses in its city and town centres to reopen following the Covid-19 lockdown.

With non-essential retailers expected to reopen from 15 June, Lichfield District Council is planning for how it will spend the £92,501 to help its local businesses to establish safe trading on high streets and other commercial areas.

The money has come from ERDF's Reopening High Streets Safely Fund, which is a £50 million pot that is being distributed to local councils across England.

Councillor Iain Eadie, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Investment & Tourism, said: "The £92,501 funding will go towards helping to keep our urban centres and green spaces safe.

"I had an exchange of emails last week on this funding with County Councillor Helen Fisher, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, and County Councillor Sue Woodward, who is also Leader of Burntwood Town Council.

"I also contacted District Councillors Darren Ennis, (Chasetown ward), and Brad Westwood, (Boney Hay and Central ward), for their help and support in hearing what ideas businesses in Burntwood have on how this money should be used.

"We have also asked for the views of our Business Improvement District and a number of visitor attractions, such as Lichfield Cathedral, Drayton Manor, the Lichfield Garrick and the National Memorial Arboretum.

"The funding will go towards helping to get our district wide local economy going again, through actions to keep our urban centres and green spaces as safe as possible."

This funding comes on top of the government's package of support for business and workers during the economic emergency.

Ends

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