Coronavirus (COVID-19) update from Cllr Gareth Roberts 18 March 2020

Cllr Gareth Roberts: Good evening, you will be aware by now that the Government has made the decision to close all local schools from Friday afternoon close of business. There are exceptions and these relate to children of key workers and vulnerable children. In respect of key workers, we are still waiting for details from the Government as to who precisely qualifies as a key worker, but of course it is those people on who we are going to rely on in the next few weeks and months in order to provide the services on which we will all rely.

Our big priority is going to be that those families who rely on the free school meals do not become over-burdened at this time. We need to make sure that they are looked after. And we are analysing the data from the Department of Education to understand how those families are going to be supported over the next few weeks.

As a Council we are going to be stepping up processes. From tomorrow (end of the day) we are going to be closing all of our leisure centres. From Friday we will be closing our libraries (end of the day). In addition, all events being held on Council property are being cancelled.

We will be suspending the use of our sports pitches for organised sports and rentals. However, those parks that host those events will remain open for the foreseeable future. This is a difficult time for us all. It is not an easy time. And the steps that the Council is taking are not being taken lightly. Please do keep updating yourself with details on the Council website –which will be shown after the video. Do please try to follow the Government advice. If you are feeling ill to self-isolate, if you have any symptoms then to self-isolate you and your household and all these details can be found on the Council website. It is a troubling time. It is a difficult time. But as I say we can all get through this together. Thank you for your continuing support and I will update you as soon as I have any further news.