



Derby City Council

Councillor Chris Poulter
Conservative – Spondon Ward
Conservative Leader of the Council

Our ref	CP/RN/RB – AH10/20
Contact	Councillor Chris Poulter
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Date	26 October 2020

Dear all

Re: Remembrance events in Derby in respect of Covid-19

Derby City Council recognises the national importance of commemorating the service men and women who have served their country since the First World War and in later conflicts.

As a result of the public health situation, this Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day the Council is promoting a range of engaging online content to encourage residents to remember from home. We believe this is the right thing to do for Derby.

Unfortunately, our city's Coronavirus infection rates are rising steeply, with around 320 new cases in the week ending 10 October and around 420 new cases in the week ending 17 October, including in older age groups where there is an increased risk of poorer outcomes. This compares to approximately 20 cases per week in the summer months. Mass gatherings and multiple household gatherings create more opportunities for the virus to spread and we need the support of all partners to limit the rate of infection.

Although Government advice issued on 15 October 2020 permits Remembrance events to take place in Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas providing certain conditions are met, Derby City Council has taken the difficult decision that we will not be adopting the role of event organiser for any remembrance events taking place either in the city centre or its localities.

Local partners are encouraged to adopt the same approach by seriously considering the implications of holding any events, due to the increased risks posed to public health. Should partners continue with any privately organised events, please be advised that it is the responsibility of the event organiser to ensure they have the necessary resources in place to guarantee public safety, undertake risk assessments and manage the implementation of Government guidance to ensure the venue is fully Covid-19 secure. The Council does not endorse any public gatherings at this time.

Leader's Office, Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS www.derby.gov.uk

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No public events will be organised to take place on the Market Place on either Sunday 8 November or Wednesday 11 November. Whilst the War Memorial will remain accessible for individuals to pay their respects, measures will be in place to ensure the latest restrictions on gatherings are applied and social distancing is maintained.

We request that residents and partners abide by these restrictions in the interests of public health and preventing the further spread of Covid-19 in Derby. We also ask that you focus any planned activity on encouraging residents to remember from home and to participate in two minutes' silence from their doorstep at 11am.

The Council in partnership with Derby Cathedral hosted a pre-recorded memorial service earlier this month involving a range of civic dignitaries and representatives of the Armed Forces community in a Covid-19 secure setting. The service together with a range of other content will be broadcast via the Council's social media channels on Sunday 8 November and we would ask you to promote this to the communities and organisations that you serve.


In accordance with national and regional guidance issued by the Royal British Legion and other stakeholders, the Council will continue to encourage residents in the city to remember from home. Despite the significance and poignancy of the occasion, it's vitally important that we all do the right thing for Derby and its residents at a time when local Covid-19 infections are increasing.

If you would like further information about the pre-recorded Service of Remembrance held at Derby Cathedral or other online content planned over the coming days, please contact Jody Shelton, Members' and Civic Services Manager (jody.shelton@derby.gov.uk / 01332 643652). If you have not done so already, we would welcome your participation.

We appreciate your co-operation in this difficult and regrettable matter and hope you will support us in our efforts – 'let's do the right thing for Derby'.

This letter has been copied to all partners and stakeholders who have customarily been involved in remembrance services in the Market Place and at other locations around the city.

Kind regards,



Councillor Chris Poulter
Leader of Derby City
Council



Rachel North
Deputy Chief Executive and
Strategic Director of
Communities and Place



Dr Robyn Dewis
Acting Director of Public
Health