**Tourism Matters: Revi-VE: Small Grants Fund and Move to Roadmap Step 4**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague,

This week we bring you the details of the Government’s announcement to move to step 4 of the roadmap on Monday 19th July, a reminder about the new Beach Check App and the opening of the Revi-VE: Small Grants Fund.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on [www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/DekBBfZP3LAIZ-s6vUtRdj2N3K0y9mOgkDSXrPdjnBptAw5_g3qnkpbc3nY0Ti7O4OJDZheJXea8dAs-1I8cMWmZwuNL1uBECjUAjae1COLO5BSBu9Amwl-_FnLMN4y4Ur9vuZWt93hNbyCaQXcpvu1RN_aPF4EFqDhJHOu37zzAckDlc36sUzskHOsqmg)

**Government Updates**

On Monday 12th July [**Prime Minister Boris Johnson**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-confirms-move-to-step-4) confirmed that England will move to step 4 from Monday 19th July.

**New guidance on moving to step 4**

The Government has published [**new guidance on moving to step 4 of the roadmap for England**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-summer-2021-roadmap/moving-to-step-4-of-the-roadmap) that outlines the key protections that will remain in place, the pathway through the summer and the five-point plan to manage the virus in the next phase.

At step 4, while many of the legal restrictions that the Government has imposed through the pandemic will be lifted, cautious guidance will remain, making it clear this is not yet a return to normal. The Government will continue to manage the virus and provide guidance over the coming months.

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**New National Beach Check UK App for Thanet**

With the weather starting to improve and the summer holidays around the corner, we wanted to remind you of the new national Beach Check UK App to help manage overcrowding at our beaches. App users will be able to check real time updates at five (Margate Main Sands, Botany Bay, Joss Bay, Viking Bay and Ramsgate Main Sands) of Thanet’s busiest beaches

The app works on a traffic light system using sophisticated technology and on-the-ground authorised users who assign a colour to beaches according to the number of visitors. Visitors can check the status of a beach before leaving home and avoid the hotspots, thereby encouraging safe, social-distancing.

The app is simple to use and free to download from Google Play and the Apple App Store ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/beach-check-uk/id1517773231) or [Android)](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/UNCmFqMN4YCCO3FQxYglif9fdd3ZvEX3MaDWcRmBu-vTFT0q45qD1jCtf7ZDs0qT2WJHd22WLoTgtPkkq2uGBnxtLgiJXMfxPlnCgt_5gHzRYBUPj5RMoMZuOXandC4iQgzkDeX_trjt7tp_id2DUTtrYavRTEMu8dr5OEmftXlkb3NLKoX0byjy9WVARLFf-NLXYPKLzo02i05d-0FLm2n59tAgOo-Cji3TU_RbhQ) and it allows users to check individual beaches or see a map showing red (crowded), amber (less congested) and green (uncongested) beaches.

[How to use video link](https://vimeo.com/569379195)

The app is embedded on [visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/beaches-bays) and information on TDC websites. We would appreciate your help too - by working together, we can ensure the app is seen by as many people as possible. Here’s how you can help:

* Add a banner to your Twitter Bio
* Post on Instagram
* Use the hashtag #BeachCheckUK

There are examples of how these look and guidelines for use to support you in the [Beach Check UK brand resources](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UJ7TOw949PZTv_XIVQ4ZEk0xdJVrMxHd)

A4 and A3 posters are available for businesses to display to encourage visitors, prior to their beach visits, to download. Please email visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk if you are interested in displaying a poster.

**The 149th Open**

**Accommodation Availability**

Are you fully booked for The Open or do you still have availability? We would be pleased to hear from you if you still have availability so that we can ensure we have the most up to date information to answer potential visitors’ enquiries. Please send details to [visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk)

**Transport to the Event**

In preparation for The Open, agencies have worked together to provide transport solutions for spectators, local businesses and residents.

Additional trains and mandatory reservations

Southeastern is running additional trains to accommodate extra passengers and all passengers will **require a mandatory reservation** on certain morning trains from London St Pancras International to Sandwich and all stations along the route for the duration of The 149th Open. **Reservations will apply from 6am - 10.37am (10:34am on Saturday 17th July)** and will guarantee a space on the train but not necessarily a seat. Spaces will sell quickly, so early booking is advised.

No reservation is required on the return journey and a managed queuing system will be in place at Sandwich to assist passengers with their journey.

For full information on travel arrangements to and from The Open please [visit the website](https://www.theopen.com/getting-there)

Bikes

Cycling is actively being encouraged as an alternative way to travel to the event and our Viking Coastal Trail National Cycle Route 15 goes into Sandwich. A cycle park will be provided close to the venue entrance. Please follow signs on approach to the venue.

Don’t forget to check out Active Ramsgate’s new cycling leaflet - [Pier to Pier](https://www.visitramsgate.co.uk/cycling/) connecting Ramsgate and Deal Piers

**Revi-VE: Small Grants for the Visitor Economy**

[**The Revi-VE grant fund**](https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/revive/) is offering small 100% grants of between £1,000 - £3,000 to visitor economy businesses that need to adapt their offering as a result of COVID-19 and changed market conditions.

The fund will **open for applications at 9am Thursday 15th July 2021 until 11:59 Sunday 18th July 2021** and is part of a wider package of South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) [**COVID-19 Recovery programmes**](https://www.southeastlep.com/covid-19-recovery-funds-programme/). The Revi-VE programme is designed to support innovation and deliver long-term resilience in the hard-hit visitor economy and will be delivered by a consortium of partners across the South East (Visit Kent, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Visit Essex, Sussex Modern, East Sussex County Council).

What can the funding be spent on?

The grants should be for purchasing tools, equipment, software, and trading approaches that are essential for the business to adapt or diversify its visitor economy offering or help it reach new visitor markets. This could include adaptations to increase capacity or changes to operations to improve consumer confidence. It could also help develop a new product or service that capitalises on changing consumer trends to generate a new revenue stream.

Examples of the types of projects that would be considered for this funding include:

* Online booking software
* Equipment or investment needed to deliver a new visitor experience that responds to a new trend
* Investment in outdoor spaces to increase capacity or offer all-weather areas
* Technology for contactless check-in
* Equipment to deliver hybrid events
* Creation of virtual tours or venue show-rounds

Who can apply?

This fund is targeted at hard-hit businesses within the visitor economy that need support to make adaptations to their business model or operations in response to COVID-19, and that meet certain criteria.

* Micro, small or medium enterprises in the SELEP region (East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock).
* Businesses operating primarily within the visitor economy including tourism, culture, leisure, events or hospitality. This includes groups of businesses who missed out on previous government grants such as event organisers, tour operators, key supply chains and businesses without premises.
* Viable businesses that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 with innovative ideas that will help to protect jobs in the visitor economy.
* Businesses with project ideas that will help transition into the recovery phase and build resilience through innovative solutions and business adaptations.

**Applications open from Thursday 15th July**

It is anticipated that demand for these grants will be much higher than the total number available. Before starting your application, please check the eligibility criteria to ensure that this fund is the right fit for your business.

[**For full eligibility criteria and details on how to apply, click here**](https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/revive/)