

## **Local incentives boost for Norfolk employers recruiting a new apprentice!**

Boosted incentive grants for businesses in Norfolk taking on young apprentices are now available. The Recruit | Retain | Reward package from Apprenticeships Norfolk will support businesses to take on new and/or redundant apprentices in the 16-24 age group\*.

In a bid to give small and medium sized Norfolk businesses as much support as possible, the flexible 'Apprenticeship Incentive Fund' is set to increase incentives up to **£2000** for new apprenticeships starts employed on/after **1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**. This increased grant will provide enhanced support for local businesses looking to recruit their workforce of the future.

## **Fuel Disruption**

Availability is perhaps slightly better as of today, with petrol in particular more easily obtainable.

Disruption to public services has mainly been through critical workers who use their own cars for service delivery – for example home care workers and front-line social workers – being unable to get fuel or spending a great deal of time searching for or queuing for fuel. The fuel disruption has also to some extent affected critical workers travelling to work.

The effect on services delivered through emergency vehicles – such as fire appliances - has been less. This is in part because these vehicles are typically given priority without any question at fuel stations and in part because of access to private fuel stocks – albeit that fuel is only held in a few locations across the county, so this mechanism is avoided where possible.

As well as supporting the Norfolk Resilience Forum, the County Council has issued priority-worker passes to critical care workers, because in some cases they were being declined access to fuel where others with a more 'visible' public service role, such as uniformed NHS staff, were being served. The council is coordinating advice and help to the care sector and is working to communicate the importance of care staff to fuel stations. In some cases it has been able to arrange for priority to be given to critical workers by marshals.

## **Norfolk set to accelerate electric vehicle uptake;**

A new electric vehicle strategy is set for discussion next week as county councillors consider practical ways to help boost the uptake of carbon cutting electric vehicles across Norfolk.

In April there were already 2631 electric vehicles registered across Norfolk, however there are big differences between parts of the county with 22% of those in South Norfolk and only 5% in Great Yarmouth. There are also relatively few public chargers, with Norwich home to 44 of the 198 currently across Norfolk as a whole.

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