# Template letter for local councillors

## #DistancingBlind : Help blind and partially sighted people

Dear Councillor

I am writing to tell you about a campaign that Sight Loss Councils have launched called #DistancingBlind.

The Sight Loss Councils, funded by the Thomas Pocklington Trust and led by blind and partially sighted volunteers, campaign on behalf of the thousands of blind and partially sighted people in their local communities. They are working together to raise awareness of the challenges social distancing poses for blind and partially sighted people.

I am concerned that social distancing is near-impossible for many blind and partially sighted people, while inaccessible signage and fears about how the public will react to them are causing additional stress and worry. Many blind and partially sighted people feel less independent now compared to before lockdown and are worried about how to access shops and services.

Local councils have a key role in working with their communities and businesses to ensure that services are as accessible as possible. We are calling on service providers and businesses to adopt the guidance on COVID-19 that Sight Loss Councils have produced, alongside other local and national charities working with blind and partially sighted people.

You can access the guidance here under the heading ‘Covid-19 Guidance’: [www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/resources](http://www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/resources)

Please contact your council, on behalf of blind and partially sighted people, and encourage them to look at the resources and guidance available. We’re all experiencing the same storm, but we’re not all in the same boat. Please ask them to make sure that the council, in partnership with local businesses, is considering the needs of blind and partially sighted people when managing social distancing, introducing new measures and helping to reopen local services.

I would love to hear back from you on what you are able to do.

With thanks