

## **Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of Executive to be held on 24 March 2020**

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### **Subject:**

**THE COUNCIL'S ON-GOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID 19**

### **Summary statement:**

**This paper provides a summary of the Council's approach to COVID 19. The on-going situation around COVID 19 is evolving rapidly. A verbal update will be provided at the Executive meeting.**

## 1. SUMMARY

- This report provides the latest position on the response of City of Bradford MDC and its partners to the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak.
- The situation is changing rapidly and being widely reported in the media. This report can therefore realistically only capture a picture of priority activity at a given point in time. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.
- National and local health and social care systems have planned extensively over the years for an event like this, and the UK is therefore well prepared to respond in a way that offers substantial protection to the public, however this is a novel virus and therefore a significant national and global challenge.
- The report sets out the national context in which our response is set, local governance arrangements and the key pledges made by the Council and its partners which act as the framework for planning, action and deployment of resources.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The current coronavirus outbreak presents a significant challenge in response to which the UK Government has taken a number of measures including:

- Strengthening legal powers. Regulations have been introduced to keep individuals considered by public health professionals to be a reasonable risk of spreading the virus, in isolation.
- Raising public awareness campaign about hand washing to prevent and slow the spread of coronavirus. Adding COVID-19 to the list of modifiable diseases. This change in law requires GPs to report all cases of coronavirus to Public Health England.
- Setting out as part of The Budget, a package to provide support for public services, individuals and businesses affected by the coronavirus. The measures included additional funding, Statutory Sick Pay changes, an increase in the Business Rates retail discount for one year and a £500 million Hardship Fund to economically vulnerable people and households.
- A further package of support including £330bn of government backed loans to business and extended business rate relief.
- Commencing the “Delay” phase to delay the spread and minimise suffering and pressure on services.
- Advising that everyone in the UK should avoid “non essential contact” with other people. This advice is particularly important for over 70 year olds, pregnant women and for adults with serious health conditions. This included a warning against trips to pubs and clubs and an end to all mass gatherings.
- Announcing that schools would close to most children and young people from Friday 20 March with provision to be made for children of key workers.

2.2 Emergency legislation published in the Coronavirus Bill currently going through Parliament enables temporary action in five key areas:

1. Increasing the available health and social care workforce – for example, by removing barriers to allow recently retired NHS staff and social workers to return to work
  2. Easing the burden on frontline staff – by reducing the number of administrative tasks they have to perform, enabling local authorities to priorities care for people with the most pressing needs, allowing key workers to perform more tasks remotely and with less paperwork, and taking the power to suspend individual port operations
  3. Containing and slowing the virus – by reducing unnecessary social contacts, for example through powers over events and gatherings, and strengthening the quarantine powers of police and immigration officers
  4. Managing the deceased with respect and dignity – by enabling the death management system to deal with increased demand for its services
  5. Supporting people – by allowing them to claim Statutory Sick Pay from day one, and by supporting the food industry to maintain supplies
- 2.3 Locally, City of Bradford MDC has convened and coordinated leadership, governance and communications arrangements for the management of the emergency, the delivery of activity on the ground and the sharing of information, guidance and advice.
- 2.4 The Council has received confirmation of an initial £16m made available by the Government to support our work.

### **3 GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING**

- 3.1 At a national level lead responsibility for providing overall multi-agency command, control and co-ordination throughout the different phases of the pandemic lies with Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) supported by Public Health England (PHE).
- 3.2 **Local Resilience Forum.** West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum is responsible for coordinating partner activity at West Yorkshire Level.
- 3.3 **District Gold Command.** Locally, we have moved swiftly to establish a District wide Gold Command Team comprised of senior leaders from across the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors. This team is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive and is meeting weekly via teleconference to plan, coordinate and implement our response to COVID-19 and to share information and intelligence about the preparations and activity in each sector to ensure a system-wide partnership approach.
- 3.4 **District Silver Command.** Chaired by the Council's Strategic Director for Place, the Silver Command meets and is operationally focussed on implementing priority

tasks and activity identified by Gold Command.

- 3.5 **Internal Gold and Silver.** District Gold and Silver meetings are mirrored by the Council's internal arrangements - Internal Gold Command, comprising the Council Management Team and other core members of the Gold group which from w/c 23 March will meet daily, and Internal Silver also meeting on a daily basis.
- 3.6 **Political oversight** of activity is achieved with a weekly meeting between members of Executive and the Council's Gold Command team, on-going liaison with the leader and portfolio holders, and briefings to senior members of opposition groups. Measures are in place to ensure that all Councillors receive regular updates.
- 3.7 **Outbreak response plan** – together we are working to implement the Outbreak Response Plan which sets out what should be done in the face of extraordinary outbreaks of flu. Bradford has strong health and care system arrangements and is as well prepared as it can be for this type of outbreak.
- 3.8 In addition to this comprehensive work across the Health and Social Care system, Council and other services are refreshing their contribution to the overall plan and approaches. In order to broaden the planning to take account of the social and economic aspects, District Gold Command has set out five pledges which are forming the framework for decision making and action on the ground.

Our collective pledges are to:

- Ensure that vulnerable people get the health and social care they need.
- Support the resilience of individuals and communities.
- Support the resilience of businesses and workers.
- Maintain critical Council services.
- Ensure that people have the information that they need, know what to do and where to go for support.

## 4 DELIVERING OUR KEY PLEDGES

### 4.1 **Pledge 1: Ensure that vulnerable people get the health and social care they need.**

**Adult Social Care.** One of Bradford Council's key priorities at this time is to ensure the safety of those who might need additional support through adult social care services. We are working closely with all our key partners and service providers, such as residential and nursing care homes, home support and supported living services and following government guidance in the way we respond to the COVID-19 virus, As a result, there may be some changes to the way services need to be

delivered.

**Changes to service delivery.** In a residential care setting, it is likely that the care home will be asking visitors to follow the latest social distancing advice or cease visits.

For those who usually attend a day time active, we will be asking those providers to work with us to support people in other ways from their own home for this period. In supported living settings, workers will be helping people to observe the social distancing guidance.

There may be variations to home visits to help with personal care including different care workers coming or a change to the times of visits. This is because care staff also need to follow the guidance and self-isolate for a period if they, or a family member, is unwell.

To reduce the risk of spreading infection, we must have strict restrictions on the numbers of family and friends visiting hospitals and care homes. It also means that planned care may be delayed.

**Working with care providers.** For the provision of social care the Council is assessing the District's social care market in order to identify and address potential weaknesses. We are working closely with the NHS to make sure that anyone in need of care is able to access it.

We are working with the independent sector to create a monitor of private sector staff levels to be able to manage workforce issues and care across the system. We are working closely to ensure that people are protected from infection and kept out of hospital while continuing to get the care they need.

Care providers are struggling to get regular supplies through normal routes and are struggling to get additional items from supermarkets – this is causing time to be wasted that could be provided on support.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** Action is being taken so that providers have the protective equipment required to do their jobs safely. All social care providers have been sent PHE guidance on preparing for COVID-19 and local public health services have been providing advice on how to protect vulnerable residents. There are however concerns about the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Local Authority and whether stocks will be made available for social care workers.

**Workforce issues and capacity.** There are already issues with the workforce. Some areas have seen 25% reductions in staffing due to self-isolation or domestic care issues. We working to ensure that we have enough people on the ground so that anyone needing health care for any new or existing conditions is able to access it. For example, the University of Bradford is working with the Council and health and care services to sustain placements of third-year students to support capacity. Alongside colleagues who are building a bank of volunteers we are looking to establish what support and what functions the voluntary sector can take on to

support our work in adult social care.

There is concern that frontline workers should have testing available for them to ensure they are not compromising the safety of others. Similarly, patients in home care settings may also need testing to ensure no transmission between homes.

Care workers on zero hours contracts also need adequate financial support to ensure anyone who should be self isolating isn't pressured into working due to money worries.

**Supporting vulnerable children.** Following the government's announcement that all schools in England would close on Friday 20 March for the foreseeable future, the Council has stated that its priority during this period is to protect vulnerable children making sure children are fed and make sure further pressure is not put on vital health and social care services. It is working to identify and support those children, including children looked after and those entitled to Free School Meals.

The Council is also working with special schools to look at how they can provide support and respite care for children and parents who would normally attend those schools and who have complex underlying health conditions.

Public Health and Better Start Bradford are developing Q&A guidance for early years vulnerabilities.

#### **4.2 Pledge 2: Support the resilience of individuals and communities.**

Mobilising community and civil society resources and assets will form a key element of our approach to identifying, supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people.

Some people rely on family, friends and neighbours for care and support. Coronavirus will likely disrupt these networks. We know that others have no local support at all. That's why we are working together with communities and Councillors to identify and contact people in need of help, who may be at risk or who just need some reassurance. Together we are mobilising resources and volunteers to make sure that everyone who needs support gets it and is able to stay safe and well. Many people are coming forward to volunteer and we are working with local organisations to coordinate action so that everyone, including carers, gets the help they need.

In order to support our communities we are prioritising the co-ordination of the volunteering effort building on the significant levels of goodwill, community spirit and active citizenship. This is the only way that we will be able to reduce the negative impacts on our most vulnerable people and in doing so we will help to save lives.

To build and maintain resilience and try and manage demand on volunteering solutions we are encouraging a hierarchy of:

Can family help?

Are there friends and neighbours who can support you?

What can we do to connect you to help and support?

We are working with partners, the VCS, volunteers and councillors to map local assets and identify vulnerable people. The role of councillors, as known and trusted individuals and as community leaders will be critical over the next three months, any beyond.

**Food and supplies.** We are looking to create two 'depots' for the storage of food and consumables to be distributed through a network of community anchors in each constituency. The Council is also working with local food producers and suppliers to ensure food sufficiency across the District.

Action is also being taken with partners to provide street food and support the homeless, top up fuel benefits and address potential eviction issues for vulnerable people.

**Community Anchors and community hubs.** A District wide network of community anchors will be the focus of volunteer coordination and the place where food parcels etc. will be distributed and collected from.

Sitting underneath these will be a series of 'community hubs'. These will provide the local interface between individual people needing support and the coordinating anchor organisations. Activity is overseen by a 'Community Bronze' comprising Council staff, VCS, Health, InCommunities, Faith and food bank representatives.

**Ward teams.** There will be a dedicated team of ward officer representation, Wardens, VCS, Police and PCSO and Community Partnership. In the longer term these may include staff that can give advice on welfare and benefits and mental health support etc. Funding has been delegated to ward Councillors to support activity on the ground in their locality.

**Volunteer hotline.** Customer Services and IT staff have established a Covid-19 volunteer hotline and over 50 calls were received on the back of our double page spread on COVID-19 in the Telegraph and Argus. Calls for help and offers to help people will be automatically routed from the call centre to Bradford Volunteer Centre, where they will be 'triaged', checked for legitimacy (DBS) etc. and then despatched to the five hubs, where we will ask that the hub team review and match the need to the offer.

People wanting to volunteer to help during the coronavirus response should call Bradford Council on **01274 431000** to leave their name and contact details.

Vulnerable people who have a particular need can also leave their details which will be passed on to the relevant service.

Basic posters have been prepared to put up in local shops containing the Contact Centre telephone number and other basic information such as the benefits helpline telephone number.

**Volunteering support** - There are some simple things that people can do if they want to help: look out for neighbours, donate food or cash to food banks and shop responsibly so there's enough food and supplies on the shelves for everyone.

Other voluntary action could include but is not limited to:

- collecting and delivering medication
- befriending / social support
- advice and signposting
- addressing potential additional needs at food banks
- pet care and dog walking
- checking in via phone with people who may need assistance
- helping a vulnerable person with practicalities like food shopping and deliveries.
- adding capacity to key services like social care and health in case of staff shortages.

**Community Safety.** As people start to enter prolonged periods of self isolation there will be a huge impact on families and a potential increased risk of domestic abuse. The Council's Domestic and Sexual Abuse service is working on plans on how to support existing and potential victims.

**Communications** - Council Communications are working alongside colleagues from VCS Assembly, NHS (CCG'S), Bradford Talking Media, Council for Mosques, Neighbourhood Services and the People Can/Safer and Stronger Communities Teams.

The immediate priorities are:

- Developing a range of key messages for all our communities – particularly focussing on hard to reach groups who may need materials translating or additional support to understand messages
- Setting up processes and co-ordination of volunteers and dissemination of messages about how to volunteer and what you could do to help your neighbours
- Identifying who may need help, encouraging people to self refer and developing a system through our voluntary groups and volunteers to provide the support required

#### **4.3 Pledge 3: Support the resilience of businesses and workers.**

This is a critical time for our thousands of businesses. Bradford Council is committed to doing all we can to support businesses through the coming weeks and months during which time we will focus on response, recovery and re-thinking, We are currently in the response phase with a priority focus on the following areas:

- Identifying vulnerable or 'at risk' businesses across the district
- Identifying and co-coordinating support to businesses both from central government and locally.
- Ensuring effective communication to businesses on behalf of the Council and partners.
- Identifying priority sectors and mobilising an effective support response.
- Working across the Council and key stakeholders to ensure as many Bradford businesses stay in business and employees keep their job.

- Develop tools, resources and support mechanisms for Bradford Businesses to stay resilient

Following recent announcements made by the Government about the financial measures to help support businesses through the crisis, we are prioritising our efforts to ensure all businesses receive the financial support they are eligible for as soon as is possible. We are also working closely with partners to co-ordinate the wider business support offer to give firms the best chance of weathering the current economic storm, and when things do start to improve, ensure they are can recover and grow.

**Business rates.** The Chancellor announced 3 schemes that will impact on our business rate payers. This was further supplemented by his announcements on 17 March 2020, where relief was extended further:

- An extension of the retail relief scheme from 50% to 100% for 2020/21 only that will also now include hospitality and leisure businesses. There are currently 1,232 retail businesses benefiting from this and the extension to include Hospitality and Leisure business will benefit around an additional 1,000 businesses.
- A grant of up to £25,000 will be provided to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000.
- Any small business that currently receives small business relief will be entitled to £10k (was £3k) grant. There are 9,784 current recipients of this relief.

Added together these rates relief and grants schemes will benefit over 12,000 businesses in the District.

The Council are not currently able to re bill these businesses, so have written to them all to explain what will happen. The Council has also taken steps to avoid collecting the April payment where we are confident the business will qualify for one of the reliefs.

The Council are starting to carrying out due diligence on high risk businesses to ensure their legitimacy and entitlement to businesses grants.

The Council is likely to be in a position to start making grant payments to around 5,000 businesses but central government guidance issued to Councils on 19<sup>th</sup> March is now requesting no payments are made until early April. A financial settlement for this is still outstanding from central government. The cost would be in the region of £130m - clearly beyond our capacity.

**Support for business.** The Council is now ensuring that measures being announced by central government are communicated and prioritised to businesses as quickly as possible.

Work that is underway includes:

- Developing a pathway for sign posting businesses to the right guidance/advice and support
- Economic development service and WYCA logging business enquiries related to Covid-19
- Key communications messages to businesses being developed
- Identifying possible business failure through business rates database.
- Business intelligence - bringing together business intelligence sources so we know what businesses are operating in the district, what sectors are they in, number of employees etc. so we can prioritise and target our support more effectively
- 163 businesses have been contacted to inform them that the Council is suspending scheduled Court hearings until further notice

We are prioritising hospitality as the most critically affected sector, identifying affected businesses through business rates/companies house/Fame data and tailoring and collating to communicate the support offer.

**Council impact on business.** We are working to achieve a clear understanding of the Council's impact on the local business community as a landlord, purchaser of goods and services from local business, supplier of business support services such as waste collection and as a strategic delivery partners on infrastructure projects – which businesses and what help can give?

As part of this, the Council is looking at bringing forward its commitment to pay suppliers within 28 days.

**Creative industries.** Bradford Council has moved fast to announce a pilot project to support creative practitioners devise new ways of helping people to connect with each other without leaving their homes and create a sense of community. Details are available at the Council's web site.

**Manufacturing production.** Work is being undertaken with local manufacturers that may have capacity to support production of respirators and other medical equipment.

**Workforce.** We are developing a clear understanding of the support offer for those employees who are made redundant working with Employers, DWP, skills agencies, housing providers and others. As part of our response we are developing a recruitment programme offering opportunities in public services to help meet the demands of the crisis. Work is on-going to develop the programme to enable this involving short training course provision and DBS checks.

**Business Concerns** other issues that businesses are raising include:

- Extension to operating hours from those currently permitted under existing planning consents.
- Request for daily collection of refuse.

- Request for police visibility..
- Request for additional space to store food stuffs.
- Request to get key worker designations.

#### **4.4 Pledge 4: Maintain critical Council services.**

Between us, local partners have decades of experience of planning for emergencies which we are putting into action. This includes making the most of all our assets by identifying the most important activities, working flexibly to share resources and staff and supporting people to work from home. Services are already seeing increases in demand and changing priorities in the frontline and behind the scenes. Staff are responding by displaying all the qualities we need to see us through - professionalism, commitment, flexibility and team work.

**Priority Services and key workers.** The government have published information on the occupations that qualify for key worker status. The Council along with partner organisations has taken immediate action to identify key workers in its workforce including those who have caring responsibilities and will need support to ensure that these are carried out including maintaining educational provision. Key workers are being provided with a letter of confirmation.

Priority services will be maintained but may be delivered differently; these include adults and children's social care, housing support and bereavement services. Waste and recycling collections are operating business as usual at the time of writing.

**Working with schools.** Council officers have met with head teachers from both special schools and mainstream schools to develop emergency plans. These will support schools that remain open to provide education and childcare for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The measure will see schools opening from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and will include ensuring identified children who attend school during this period receive either a hot meal or a nutritious packed lunch during these times of operation.

Information, advice and guidance has been sent to all schools and will be published on the Council's website. This provides the latest health guidance on coronavirus (COVID 19), signposting to a range of additional support parents may wish to access, and also has answers to frequently asked questions. Our Family Hubs and early years providers will also be using this information to support parents and carers.

**Service Closures.** Reluctantly, we have had to take the decision to close Bradford Council run museums and galleries, sport and leisure centres, theatres and residential outdoor centres for the foreseeable future as well as stopping all events, tourism services and training courses. Both Bradford Council run and community run libraries are closed. A Keighley Town Council bye election has been postponed. We are looking at how staff released as a result of service closures or reductions in service levels can be redeployed to support the wider effort and maintain other critical service areas.

**Protecting staff.** We are doing all that we can to protect staff in the workplace so that they can continue to deliver services. This includes enabling those who can to work from home, holding meetings by teleconference, providing access to hand washing facilities, creating distance between ourselves and our visitors. We have ordered additional sanitizer, wall mounted dispensers, tissues, cleaning fluid, soap, disposable gloves and covered bins for workplaces. These will be distributed with priority for customer contact areas and front line employees. We are working hard to secure supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) for people who have to have close contact e.g. in social care, with others. Council staff have been provided with advice on social distancing.

**Home working.** Council staff have been prioritised for home working and there has been a significant increase in the numbers of staff supported to work from home. The council can now support 3,500 home workers.

**VCS Contractual arrangements.** We are reviewing contractual and commissioning arrangements with voluntary and community sector partners to allow them to adapt these to current circumstances and help to deliver the core services that are needed to see us through.

**Business continuity.** All council departments are keeping their business continuity plans under review to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, support the workforce and cover essential services should large numbers of employees be absent at any one time.

**Weekend working.** Arrangements for weekend working are being made including for senior management cover.

**Political Governance and decision making.** The Council's political leadership retains oversight of activity on an on-going basis. Meetings have had to be cancelled. Meetings of the Executive and other essential business such as planning and school appeals will be undertaken remotely where possible.

Meetings of Gold and Silver command will also be held remotely. All key decisions and the rationale behind them that are taken by Gold and Silver are being recorded.

#### **4.5 Pledge 5: Ensure that people have the information that they need, know what to do and where to go for support.**

Communicating quickly and effectively with residents, businesses and community organisations is one of the most important things that we can do in a rapidly changing situation. This includes listening to concerns as well as providing trusted information, advice and reassurance and helping people to adapt to the circumstances. Our teams meet frequently to exchange information and intelligence, update each other on national advice and guidance and agree how best to communicate what people can do to help themselves and to help others.

Arrangements are in place to coordinate and support communications across partner organisations including regular liaison between key communication leads. A Daily Intelligence brief is being developed by Public Health.

**Communications Capacity.** Each of the Council's project teams working on the delivering of our pledges has dedicated communications support as do web, social media and internal staff communications. Strategic District wide communications capacity has been bolstered by the appointment of external support.

**Delivery.** Communications, information and advice are being delivered through a variety of channels including:

- The Council web site.
- Media releases – including a two page spread in local newspapers setting out our collective response and five pledges.
- E- bulletins which people can sign up to at our Stay Connected Site.
- The Council's twitter and Facebook accounts.
- Internal staff communications through the Council's intranet site "Bradnet", staff bulletins, management briefings.
- Councillors and MP's are receiving regular dedicated updates.

**Council contact centres.** Key customer services points remain open to offer advice and information about Council services and our 431000 number is also directing people to information and advice including signposting people who are wishing to volunteer to assist in the emergency.

## **5 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

5.1 The impact upon the Council will be such that the budget approved by Full Council in February 2020 will be materially impacted and will not be the budget delivered during the financial year.

5.2 The budget will be impacted in a number of ways-

1. The impact of complying with government requirements such as the closure of Leisure centres and theatres, and the cost implications / lost revenue arising from such decisions

2. The consequential impact of self isolation and reduction in leisure and group activities, such as reduced parking revenue.

3. The additional costs in providing social cohesion and community support to vulnerable individuals, residents and business across the District.

5.3 Silver and Gold processes have been established to ensure issues and their financial implications and captured and subject to specific approval processes. Financial Processes and enhanced financial monitoring has been established to specifically focus on these issues., and ensure decisions and their impacts are supported by clear audit trail and evidence to ensure spending has consideration of government funding available and opportunities to maximise offsetting any additional costs with additional government funding are maximised.

## **6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. Government is enacting legislation which provides the legal basis for a variety of the measures already announced. The Local Government Association has requested Government to introduce legislation to allow Councils to undertake business which is not reliant on formal meetings. Bradford's Constitution allows decisions to be made in an emergency, however, without reliance on meetings taking place. In order for democratic accountability to be maintained in the medium term the need remains for further legislation to be enacted.
- 6.2 The situation is such that the Council will need to operate under delegated powers (which means senior officers taking decisions usually after consultation with Portfolio Holders) in order to ensure effective, timely and appropriate decision making and action.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

The situation is changing rapidly and assessment of risk and governance arrangements is being kept under on-going review.

## **9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

The Council and its partners are working to ensure that all equality and diversity considerations are always recognised.

### **9.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Coronavirus presents potential community safety implications across the district. The current unprecedented circumstances may provide some new opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour as well the possibility of community tensions - especially related to the supply of goods and services. The Council is working alongside the Police and partner organisations to ensure that communities are supported to be resilient and that people, businesses and property stay safe throughout the duration of the emergency.

### **9.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

No direct issues arising from this report.

### **9.6 TRADE UNION**

There is positive dialogue with the trade unions about the approach to this issue given the impact on our workforce.

### **9.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

All wards are affected by the impact of Coronavirus and the Council and we are

working with communities and Councillors at a local level in all parts of the District including allocating financial support to every ward.

## **9.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

Ensuring the health, safety and well being of children in the Council's care is a key priority. Plans are in place to make sure that these children and children at risk get the care and support that they need.

## **9.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

No direct issues arising from the report.

## **10. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **11 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 That Executive note the content of this report and the significant action that the Council, its partners and our communities and volunteers are taking in order to combat COVID-19, keep our most vulnerable residents safe and well, make sure everyone gets the support they need and help our businesses and workforce to remain resilient.
- 11.2 That the Executive puts on record its thanks and appreciation to Council staff for their on-going efforts to address the emergency and urges all staff to take the appropriate measures to stay safe and well and to minimise the spread of the virus.