

# **Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## **Covid-19 Recovery**

**17 June 2020**

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. Receives and comments on the County Council's approach to Covid-19 Recovery, as set out in the attached Cabinet report.
2. Comments on the specific issues relevant to the remit of this Committee that should be considered in the development of the Recovery Plan which is due to be submitted to Cabinet in September.

### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This paper aims to provide an overview of the Council's approach to recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, as set out in the attached paper, considered by Cabinet on the 11 June.
- 1.2 Key to this work will be the development of a Recovery Plan that will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in September. This report seeks this Committee's comments on the approach to the development of the Recovery Plan as relevant to the remit of the Committee.
- 1.3 Following approval of the Recovery Plan, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to have a role to play in recovery, particularly over the longer term as we move into the delivery phase. We will be building consideration of how we best achieve this into our review of scrutiny which we had planned pre-Covid and which we are preparing to restart in coming weeks.

### **2. Supporting Information**

- 2.1 For the past three months the Council has focused on responding to the Covid-19 crisis, working closely with key partners, locally, regionally and nationally.
- 2.2 Attention is now focused on developing a longer-term plan to support recovery from the crisis. Our Recovery approach includes the following key elements, with further details in the Cabinet report:

- Principles and objectives to guide recovery
- Efforts at local, county, sub/regional and national levels
- Phasing of efforts over
  - Foundation: 0-3 months,
  - Consolidation: 3-9 months
  - Acceleration: over 10 months
- Four themes of the recovery approach, focused on:
  - Place, Economy & Climate
  - Community and Voluntary Sector
  - Health, wellbeing and social care
  - Organisation, including the reinstating of services
- Engaging Members, staff, partners, business and the public on our recovery planning.

2.3 We are now in the Foundation stage and focusing on:

- standing up and reinstating WCC services in line with the national guidance about Covid-secure spaces, including workplaces.
- seizing immediate opportunities to support communities/business.
- establishing recovery governance and approach; and
- engaging with the regional approach to setting recovery priorities including participating in the regional citizens' panel.

2.4 The key output from this phase will be a Recovery Plan that is presented to Cabinet for approval in September.

### **3. Focus of Response and Plans for Recovery**

3.1 During the pandemic, the Council has worked flexibly and adapted in many ways to ensure that the residents, communities and businesses continued to receive key services and were supported to cope with the effects of Covid-19.

3.2 Examples of the responsiveness and actions taken by services within the remit of this Committee, include:

- Implementation of light touch parking enforcement and free parking for NHS staff.
- Working with partners to implement schemes in key town centres to support social distancing.
- Tailored revised road safety campaigns during lockdown and as restrictions are lifted and traffic volumes begin to increase.
- Rapid move to online provision of Diversionary Courses to maintain service delivery.

- Sign-posting and co-ordinating, with partners, Covid-19 specific support for businesses.
- Making accelerated payments to over 1,000 of our suppliers in order to support them with their cashflow.
- Agreeing a “no strings attached” rent free period from April to June, for over 200 businesses in our Business Centres to help reduce their costs.
- Working with Local Resilience Forum partners, Department of Health and Social Care and WCC volunteers to facilitate the provision of emergency PPE supplies.
- Coordinating and providing support to the regional COVID19 multi-agency response structures and sub-groups.
- Working with partners across Warwickshire & the West Midlands to provide a temporary mortuary facility and to ensure that the deceased have been treated with the utmost dignity and respect.
- Trading Standards guidance for Warwickshire businesses on operating during the pandemic such as operating a click and collect service, food industry, landlords, housing and trade industry businesses.
- Supplying teachers in the classroom with remote access and free door-step deliveries of Museums & Heritage loans boxes with real and replica objects, enabling access to resources in place of visiting the museum.
- Created a series of guides to support those groups and individuals who are documenting Warwickshire's experience of Covid-19:  
(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaTrUbnJFkye3w1e4ycGqSIGyrZ-VI8pg>)
- Heritage and Culture weekly posts for families with themed activity suggestions for the under 5s and primary-school aged children.
- Re-opening of household recycling centres with appointment system to ensure safety and wellbeing of our residents.
- Safe re-opening of car parking at country parks to enable greater access and contribute to residents' physical and mental well-being.

3.3 Further detail about the response to the Covid pandemic in relation to economic development activities and the approach to the economic recovery work is considered in more detail in a separate report for this Committee meeting.

3.4 As we emerge from the immediate response phase and move into the delivery phase of our Recovery Plan, there will be a role for the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider aspects of recovery as are relevant to the remit of the Committee. The theme of Place, Economy and Climate (further details of which are set out in the Cabinet paper attached) will be of particular relevance, as may be aspects of the Community and Voluntary Sector theme. It is intended that there will be further opportunities for input from Committee Members as we move into the delivery phase from October onwards and further reports will be brought to the Committee for consideration.

## 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Work on the change portfolio/Recovery planning will be funded through the Organisational Change fund; the investment funds created in the MTFS are available to support one-off investments which will support recovery effort. The refresh of the rolling five-year MTFS from 2021-22 onwards will be the key mechanism for incorporating longer-term financial impacts of Covid-19.

## 5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct environmental implications of the proposed recovery approach. Climate change is one of four recovery themes proposed - 'Place, Economy and Climate'.

## Appendices

1. Appendix 1 -Cabinet Report, 11 June 2020, Covid-19 recovery and reform

## Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Sushma Soni	<a href="mailto:sushmasoni@warwickshire.gov.uk">sushmasoni@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury	<a href="mailto:sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk">sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Lead Directors	Rob Powell Mark Ryder	<a href="mailto:robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk">robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk">markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Lead Members	Cllr Izzi Seccombe Cllr Heather Timms Cllr Andy Crump	Leader & Economic Development Environment, culture & heritage Community safety, fire & resources

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: None