

# Report to Council

26 January 2021

<b>Subject:</b>	Covid 19 Update
<b>Director:</b>	David Stevens – Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa McNally - Director – Public Health

## 1 Recommendations

1.1 That Council receive and consider the update on Covid 19.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 To apprise Council of the latest situation in relation to Covid 19.

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic with our communities, stakeholders and partners will have a positive impact on all ambitions contained in the Vision
		
		
		



## 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) across the United Kingdom, Sandwell Council has provided a co-ordinated response across services and with partner organisations to support its communities. Whilst the Council is endeavouring to maintain core services, much of its resources continue to be targeted toward addressing the many implications for Sandwell's resident and business communities arising from the virus.

The impact of the crisis response to Covid 19 has created a prolonged period in which the organisation is having to work within an emergency response arena. Strategic, tactical and operational decisions are being made to deal with urgent emerging problems.

The impact on our most vulnerable individuals and communities generates significant unprecedented issues for the ability to operate public services effectively, however, the Council continues to respond to the current situation and plan for the projected spread and impact of the virus.

## 5 Background

5.1 On 25 March 2020, the Emergency Committee approved the council's Resilience Plan in response to the coronavirus outbreak. This set out the council's initial plans to address the varied and significant challenges that have arisen and acknowledged that the Plan needed to evolve in accordance with the needs of the Borough. A response continues to be provided in line with this approach.

- To support the Resilience Plan, an Incident Management Team (IMT) has been created, to oversee a locally-led system for Sandwell that seeks to protect and promote health and wellbeing in the face of the pandemic. The IMT meets twice weekly with representative from the council and partners organisations.
- The key goals of IMT are:
  - (1) reduce the number of new community cases of COVID-19;
  - (2) minimise outbreaks and manage them effectively when they occur and
  - (3) reduce the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable groups in our community, by focusing on the following themes:



- Theme 1: Health Protection
- Theme 2: Test and Trace
- Theme 3: Outbreak Incident Management Team
- Theme 4: Communications and Engagement
- Theme 5: Monitoring and Engagement, with support to local businesses
- Theme 6: Vulnerable Persons and practical support
- Theme 7: Impact on Services
- Theme 8: Vaccination Roll out

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>There continues to be a significant impact on the overall financial position of the organisation either from decisions that the Council makes to mitigate the impact on businesses and citizens or impacts that occur outside the Council's control or result from carrying out its statutory duties during this period of emergency response. A revised financial framework was agreed by the Emergency Committee and these financial controls will be maintained as robustly as possible. It is also recognised that the Council may well be faced with making decisions that have a significant financial impact with no guarantee that these pressures will be compensated in full by way of additional government funding.</p> <p>The council continues to compile, maintain and monitor data on expenditure and loss of income arising from its response to Covid-19.</p>
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	<p>Central Government has issued a series of new legislative measures to enable the Council and partner organisations to respond to the many challenges that the virus brings.</p>
<b>Risk:</b>	
<b>Equality:</b>	<p>There are no direct issues or implications relating to equality.</p>
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	<p>The impact on the health and wellbeing of the population of Sandwell continues to be monitored. Current and projected infection and mortality rates will be impacted by the local response to, and compliance with, social distancing and lockdown guidelines.</p>
<b>Social Value</b>	<p>There are no direct issues or implications relating to social value</p>



## 7. Appendices

None

## 8. Background Papers

Report to Emergency Committee - 22 April 2020

