

Report of the Chief Executive

UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S COVID-19 RESPONSE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOVERY PLAN1. Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the response of the Council to the threat and risk COVID-19 poses to the local community and progress in implementing the Council's approach to recovery which was agreed at Committee in July 2020, included at appendix 1.

2. Detail

Since the last Committee report in December, Broxtowe has experienced a significant rise in numbers of COVID-19 positive tests, and sadly deaths from the disease, as the peak of the so-called "second wave" occurred in January 21. At the time of writing the report rates have reduced significantly. However, the rates in all Nottinghamshire districts remain above the England average. The reasons for this are complex and potentially include circulation of the so-called "Kent" variant of the disease, and the fact that there are larger numbers of people in our area who are in one or more jobs which they cannot undertake from the safety of their homes. Appendix 2 shows two LGInform summaries of the progress of the infection in Broxtowe from the start of the pandemic, the extent of deaths from COVID-19 in Broxtowe since December 2020 and vaccination take up in Broxtowe. Appendix 3 shows the number of deaths registered by the week ending 21 February from COVID-19 at a ward level since the beginning of the pandemic. The activity of the Council to respond to the pandemic and support the local community since the last report is set out in appendix 4

A summary of recent activity in implementing the Council's recovery strategy is set out in appendix 5, vaccination data at appendix 6 and data for deaths from COVID 19 is at appendix 7.

3. Financial implications.

Please see appendix 4.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report

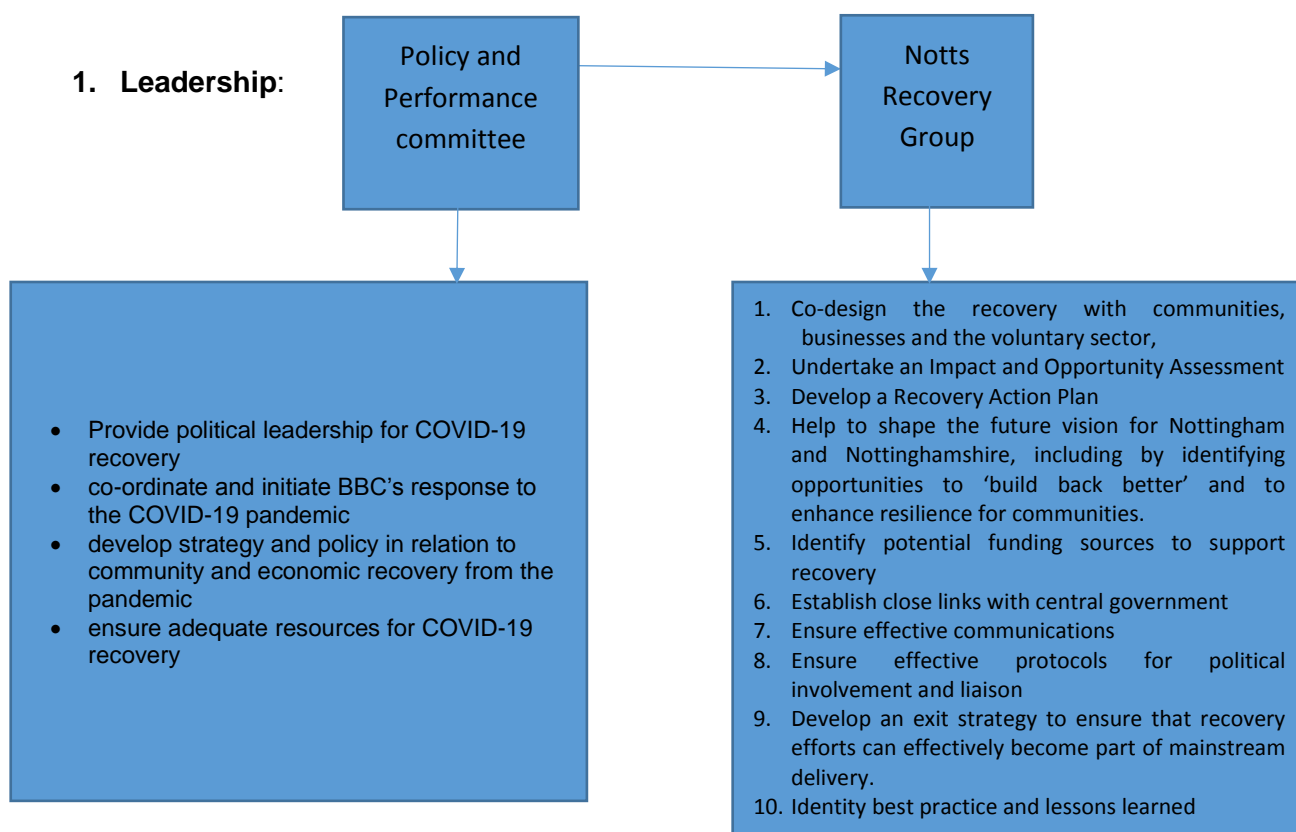
Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

BROXTOWE'S RECOVERY STRATEGY

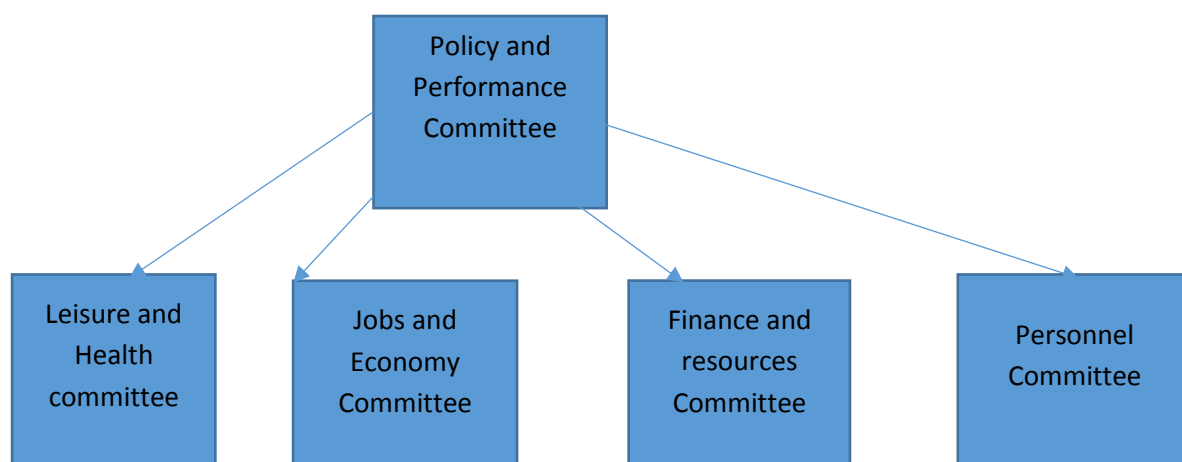
1. Leadership:



2. Vision

The residents and businesses of Broxtowe will not only recover from COVID-19, but emerge with a fairer, more just and enriched community life, better mental and physical health outcomes for all; a sustainable fast growing local economy and a cleaner environment for all to enjoy.

3. Damage and Needs assessment



- Economic needs assessment (Led by Jobs and Economy Committee– see report to that committee 18.6.20)
- Community needs assessment (led by Leisure and Health Committee– see report to that committee 10.6.20)
- Internal/BBC services recovery (led by Personnel Committee – see report to that Committee 30.6.20)
- Financial recovery (led by Finance and Resources committee) – see report to that committee 9.7.20).

Issues to feed in:

- Lesson-learning from the 2020 crisis and how this impacts future emergency planning – particularly with regard to pandemic preparedness and crisis management. (Policy and Performance committee)
- How far BBC and partners might mainstream some of the experiences of very rapid response, adaption, redeployment, and labour flexibility. (Personnel Committee)
- Reflect on implications of more home working and home learning and consequences for economy and place making Need for stable and resilient high bandwidth internet connectivity to sustain. (Jobs and Economy Committee)
- Social impacts: leisure and recreation and the significant impact on these sectors; the highly variable impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups and communities. (Leisure and health Committee)
- Positive impacts experienced including from increased volunteering, reduction in carbon emissions. (Environment Committee)
- Ongoing financial impacts of the pandemic on the Council's finances (Finance and Resources Committee).

4. Initial phase 1 recovery

(a) Public services resumption

Our own services

- How we establish a “new normal” way of operating as a local authority (might include renting out more space within the Council offices)
- How we can adapt our offices and service points to manage health risks
- Catch up on backlogs in service provision e.g. repairs
- Manage risk, reduce harm and increase resilience.

Town centres and public places

- Deep cleaning; public places
- Managing use to reduce risk of harm
- Promoting our town centres and businesses.

Communities

- Providing information
- Restoring confidence- PR internal and external

- Celebrating heroes, successes.

(b) Supporting private and third sector basic services

- Review/renew and continue grants
- Identify who the key organisations are we need to work with
- Consider flexing our workforce to further support third sector
- Identify resources we can bid for to support private sector and third sector
- Research the needs and impacts of COVID-19 on third sector and business community.

(c) Build higher levels of resilience for reopened infrastructure, workplaces and services

- Continue to promote and value the flexibility of workforce agility and homeworking
- Increase resilience of areas like refuse, crematorium, contact centre
- Learn from what we have already done and from good practice elsewhere.

(d) Continuing support for those who need it

- Undertake research to identify where our efforts need to be targeted
- Mobilize and enable the community to support one another
- Identify issues relating to inequality of provision, ensure all sections of the community receive the support they need and that all voices are heard.

(e) Manage our finances

- Refreshed business strategy
- Consider needs of those in economic hardship: the hardship fund and rent payments, both individuals and businesses.

(f) Continue with existing planned Strategic investments to restart the economy

- Stapleford business hub
- Mushroom farm
- Stapleford Towns fund
- Beeston Regeneration phase 2
- Housebuilding programme
- Decisions about future Leisure provision
- Green investment.

5. Medium to Longer Term Recovery Strategy

A: ECONOMY

Develop a **new Economic Development and Regeneration strategy** which

- Ensures a properly balanced and resilient economy, in the light of impacts of COVID-19.
- Puts as high a value on the role and contribution of key workers as knowledge workers.
- Review investment strategies in the light of impacts of COVID-19 on existing businesses.
- Promote new technology and full fibre broadband.
- Refresh and repurpose place-based anchor institution collaboration post-crisis (e.g. Trent and Nottingham Universities).
- Start planning for Eastwood and Kimberley regeneration.
- Actively engage in East Midlands Development company: HS2/Toton Strategic growth as important for the long term prosperity of the area.

B: ENVIRONMENT

Ensure our **Green Futures programme** fully embraces the opportunities of a dramatic reduction in carbon emissions during the lockdown period.

- a new impetus to green agendas.
- Rediscovering local green spaces and essential services within a 10 minute walking radius of where you live.
- Embedding behavioural change to save the planet: less commuting, more homeworking.
- How can we capitalise on changes to previous modes of travel by promoting pedestrianisation, increased cycle infrastructure, promoting public transport?

C: SOCIAL

Develop new strategies for the voluntary sector, Food poverty and fuel poverty

- Map community support. Identify gaps and weaknesses- a risk is that the pandemic will have widened existing inequalities. We need to intentionally strengthen social capital where it is currently weaker.
- Explore the support of ground roots volunteering and encourage street level resident “champions” to increase resilience for future emergencies and capitalise on citizen engagement.
- Develop a new voluntary sector strategy to support the community.
- Strengthen food banks and consider other key means of social support.
- Support people to keep themselves warm through the Winter months.
- Develop initiatives to support mental health- internal and external.