

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 agreed at Committee in July (appendix 1).

2. Detail

The council has worked with the County Council and other partners to respond to an upsurge in COVID-19 positive cases in the area. An update on activity is set out in appendix 2.

Further community grants have been made to voluntary organisations actively supporting the volunteer community response. An updated schedule of grants is attached in appendix 3.

A summary of recent activity in implementing the recovery strategy is set out in appendix 4.

3. Financial implications.

The financial implications are set out in appendix 3 and as far as appendix 4 is concerned, as reported in separate reports to the individual service committees and the finance and Resources Committee.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report

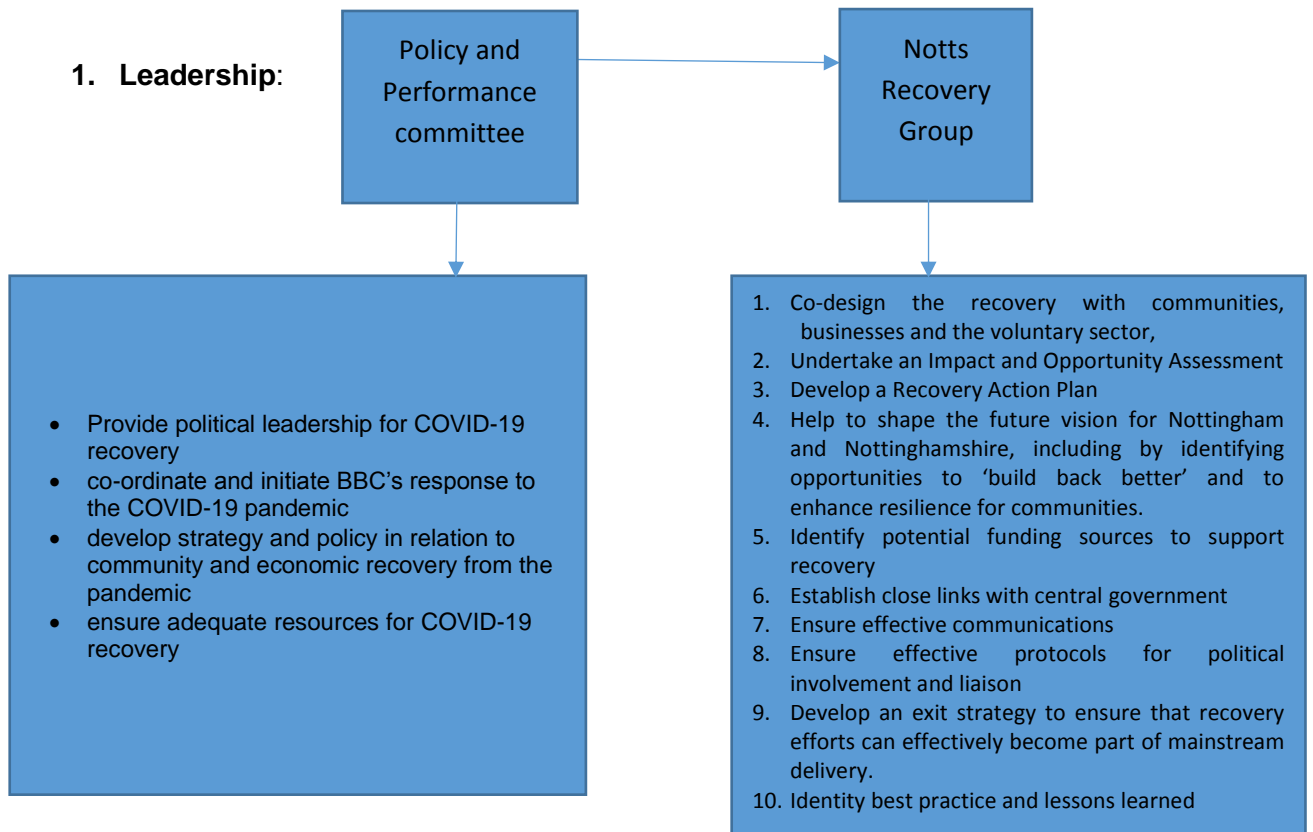
Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

BROXTOWE’S RECOVERY STRATEGY

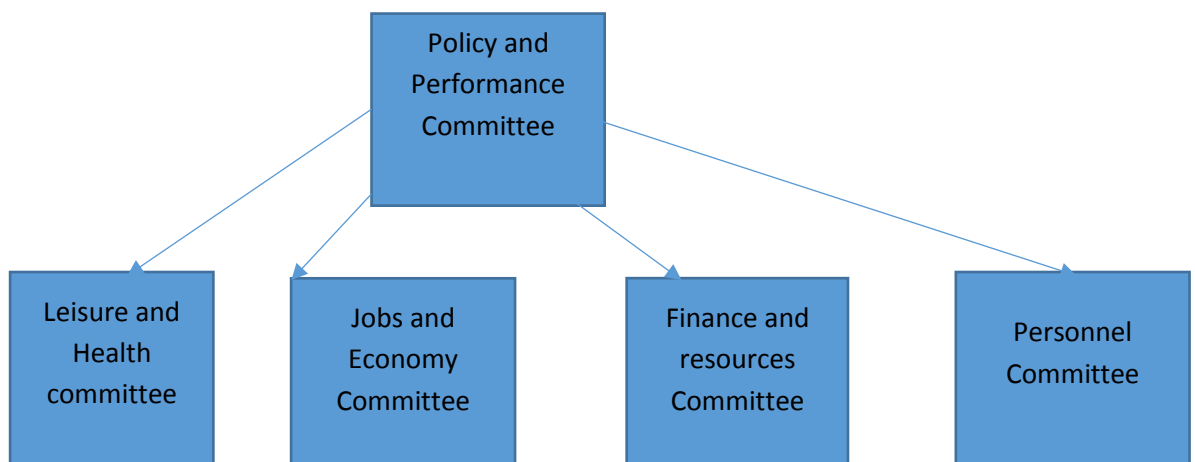
1. Leadership:



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 min 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

APPENDIX 2

There has been an upsurge in the rate of COVID-19 positive tests reported in Broxtowe in recent weeks. The rate of positive tests was significantly higher than the national and regional average. Areas of most concern have been Kimberley, Watnall, North Beeston, Eastwood. The main locus of infections has been within households and household clusters. Some have been linked to an event which took place within a public house in the North of Broxtowe.

Weekly incident management team meetings chaired by the Director of Public Health have been held with public health colleagues, NHS Colleagues, colleagues from the CCG and Broxtowe's own employees including representatives from communications and environmental health as well as the chief Executive.

Various interventions have been agreed at these meetings which include:

- Targeted communications by letter and leaflet in areas of most concern.
- Systematic contact tracing to supplement what is done nationally.
- Provision of advice and guidance as part of contact tracing.
- Work with Nottingham University on local outbreak planning and communications with students.
- Co-ordinated enforcement activity with the Police in public houses and micro-breweries.
- Provision of advice and guidance to businesses.
- Use of powers such as an Improvement Notice and a Community Protection warning letter to ensure non complying establishments improve their safe operating practices. Further interventions are under active consideration.
- Making of a video to encourage safe use of Town centres.
- Deployment of local mobile testing facilities (subject to national constraints and difficulties).
- Planned letter to community group leaders
- Planned covid 19 special pull-out in Broxtowe Matters newsletter in November
- New signage has been installed in the town centres and the Information Officers have been giving out posters for businesses to display around face coverings, getting tests, symptoms and social distancing.

The situation has now improved and the rate of positive tests reduced significantly. the position is being closely monitored through the Local Outbreak board as well as by the incident management team.

APPENDIX 3

Group Name	Grant (£)
Eastwood Volunteer Bureau	10000.00
Eastwood Age Concern	10000.00
Middle Street Resource Centre	10000.00
Hope Centre	10000.00
Beeston Rylands Community Association	2000.00
Stapleford Community Group	2000.00
Eastwood Memory Café	2000.00
Brinsley Parish Council	2000.00
Nuthall Parish Council	2000.00
Pulp Friction	2000.00
East Midlands Free Wheelers	2000.00
Kimberley and District Mutual Aid Group	2000.00
Stapleford and Surrounding Area Mutual Aid Group	2000.00
Beeston and Chilwell Mutual Aid Group	2000.00
Nuthall Parish Council	2000.00
Beeston Rylands Community Association	2000.00
The Helpful Bureau (Stapleford)	2000.00
Pulp Friction	2000.00
For the Love of Scrubs	2000.00
Stapleford Community Group	2000.00
Beeston Muslim Centre	2000.00
Total	<hr/> 74000.00

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOVERY STRATEGY: PROGRESS**ECONOMIC**

- An initial survey of needs has been undertaken of businesses in Broxtowe and reported to the Jobs and Economy Committee. This is ongoing.
- Two COVID-19 Information Officers have been employed and have been actively deployed in Town centres and surrounding areas.
- New signage has been installed in the town centres and the Information Officers have been giving out posters for businesses to display around face coverings, getting tests, symptoms and social distancing.
- The Personnel Committee is being asked to consider the appointment of a permanent Markets Officer to support outdoor retail traders.
- A bid has been submitted to the Government for funding for the acquisition of a key site in Stapleford and work continues on the Towns fund bid, due to be submitted in January 2021. (further details are being presented to the Finance and Resources Committee at its next meeting).
- A bid has been submitted to the LEP for funding for conversion of Durban House to a business hub (further details are being presented to the Finance and Resources Committee at its next meeting).
- The house building delivery plan continues to be implemented (progress is reported to every meeting of the Housing Committee). Two dementia friendly bungalows are nearing completion in Beeston. The Council is working with a local developer for the development of land partly in its ownership which will if approved result in 178 units of accommodation, a significant proportion of which will be affordable housing.
- Construction is under way in Stapleford in connection with the new Stapleford business hub and construction will shortly be under way in connection to new industrial units at Mushroom Farm.
- The support of Lee Anderson MP has been secured to lobby the government for a towns fund deal for Eastwood.
- Beeston Town centre regeneration continues with the new cinema development progressing well and confirmed to be the first Arc premium cinema in the UK- due to open in the first quarter of 2021/22. A separate report covers this on the agenda.
- A new list of sites to focus on bringing forward for development was approved by the Jobs and Economy Committee at its last meeting.
- Work is continuing on proposals for the council to be a founder member of a new Development Corporation which will result in the development of land for housing and employment around the new Toton hub station.
- Discussions are being held with the DWP around the possibility that the Council becomes a “youth centre” for the purposes of the new Kickstart scheme.
- A new Leisure facilities strategy is presented to this committee in a separate report regarding the Council’s future investment in leisure.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- A new Carbon reduction strategy has been developed and approved by the Environment and Climate change committee. This is a comprehensive 15 strand programme of work designed to enable the council to make substantial progress towards achieving our goal to be an area which is net zero carbon by 2027. Included within the strategy is a new transport and fleet strategy.
- The new Asset Management plan for housing has a number of themes one of which is energy efficiency. This means in the next year spending will focus on
 - Replacement of electrical heating with more energy efficient models and remove all solid fuel heating from our properties
 - Analysis of benefits of Air-Source Heat Pumps and PV solar panels that have been fitted to new build schemes
 - Consideration of retro-fitting of energy efficient measures including Air-Source Heat Pumps
 - Considering fitting PV solar panels when completing roofing work
 - Reviewing the need for increasing insulation, including loft insulation and the approach needed to address properties that are difficult to insulate
 - Identifying all funding opportunities, and make bids for funding where suitable
 - Providing information for tenants to support them to use their homes in the most efficient way

SOCIAL

- A voluntary sector mapping exercise has been commissioned.
- A mental health action plan for employees is being considered by the Personnel Committee at its next meeting.
- The Broxtowe partnership on 21 October has a special focus planned on mental health issues.
- A survey has been completed relating to people living with dementia and their Carers and a proposal to support people living in Broxtowe who have dementia and the carers was approved at the last leisure and health committee
- Coronavirus Grants continue to be provided to voluntary organisations which are supporting the community to cope with the impact of COVID-19 (appendix 3).
- A report on fuel poverty was produced to the most recent housing committee outlining measures being taken to support people with their heating bills. This work is continuing and being broadened out to lead to a corporate fuel poverty strategy.
- A food strategy is being worked on and will be brought to the leisure and health committee in due course.

- The child poverty strategy has been updated and is before the committee in a separate report.