

South Lakeland District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 17th July 2020

Shaping the COVID 19 pandemic response

Portfolio:	Cllr Jonathan Brook, Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder
Report from:	David Sykes – Director Strategy Innovation and Resources
Report Author:	David Sykes – Director Strategy Innovation and Resources
Wards:	All wards
Forward Plan:	Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested a report so that it may consider the main issues facing the Council in responding to the COVID19 pandemic. The report will assist the Committee in developing its work programme aligned with the Council's need to prioritise resources and activity to mitigate the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic on the district's communities, economy and environment.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Consider the summary of the Council's response to the COVID19 pandemic to date attached at Appendix 1**
- (2) Identify any particular issues which they would recommend the Council considers further in its response to the COVID19 pandemic**
- (3) Identify any particular issues it would wish to consider in the Committee's work programme**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested a report so that it may consider the main issues facing the Council in responding to the COVID19 pandemic.
- 3.2 The paper attached in Appendix 1 (produced in late June 2020) sets out a summary of the Council's actions, the main issues at this point in time and how the Council may further develop its response to the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic in South Lakeland. This report needs to be heavily caveated in that the impact of COVID19 pandemic is an ongoing situation which can change significantly and quickly (e.g. local lockdowns), the range and extent of impacts are far from known, much will depend on factors such as risk of second wave and when treatments and vaccines become available and the full scale and direction of the Government's response is still emerging. The report provides opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider particular aspects of the Council's work in response to the pandemic which the Committee would wish to consider further in its work programme.

- 3.3 Responding to the COVID19 pandemic requires an agile and adaptive response as the impacts of the pandemic become better known, legislation and guidance is introduced and appropriate responses are developed in detail. This report and Appendix should not be interpreted as being the Council's confirmed response. Rather, it is a step towards the development and refinement of the Council's response and the associated alignment of resources. Further reporting will be required to the Cabinet and Council to agree priorities and deployment of resources in responding to the crisis.
- 3.4 Importantly, this report and appendix are not about providing a detailed review of actions taken to date or to provide the detail of impacts on the district or the Council. The Council provides regular updates to members on current issues, activities and Government announcements via the 'Coronavirus briefing updates.' In addition, the impacts to date on the Council's finances have been reported to Cabinet on the 20th May 2020. (See link from Background Papers). Further, the Agenda to this meeting also has an item on the review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Future committee work programme

- 3.5 In formulating its future work programme, the Committee is requested to be mindful that the COVID19 pandemic has placed significant increased demand on the Council's resources which will extend into the medium to long term. Work programmes need to be prioritised, focussed by the Council priorities enabling South Lakeland's communities to live, work, and explore in a 'Coronavirus World' and the Council to address the impacts and deliver the opportunities presented by the crisis.
- 3.6 Recognising that the fuller impact of the pandemic is only starting to emerge and response planning is still highly fluid. Dependent on issues identified by the Committee, it is suggested that the Committee considers holding a workshop in October, structured by themes of health, resilience and economy. The outcomes of which would be reported to the Committee and onward to Cabinet.
- 3.7 In the interim the Council will continue with its response and progress its assessment of issues and approach. Members' views and ideas can be captured informally to inform this process. It will be possible to hold informal discussions with officers to explore ideas and concerns. This more flexible means of engagement between members and officers will assist the development of proposals and inform the proposed workshop in October.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The ideas and content of this report have been informed by the collaborative work in which the Council is engaged with numerous organisations. As the Council develops its medium to long term response to the crisis, proposals will be subject to consultation with stakeholders.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 This report presents a summary review and indications of issues the Council needs to consider in further developing recovery priorities. As such, no alternative options are recommended.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 The Council's response and approach to recovery is guided by the priorities identified in the Council Plan. Analysis of impacts and resultant needs will inform a review of the Council Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 The financial implications of the COVID19 crisis are considered in separate reports on the impact on the Council's budget and the revisions to the Medium Term Financial Plan. There are no direct financial impacts from this report.

Human Resources

- 7.2 The report notes the flexibility and adaptability shown in responding to the crisis, together with the need for continued investment in the transition and development of the workforce. Increased demand for services has human resources implications and any sustained need for change to human resources will be considered in resource planning moving forward.

Legal

- 7.3 The crisis has brought numerous additions to legislative and regulatory frameworks which enable and require the Council to amend or introduce new procedures. This report has no direct legal implications.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The COVID 19 pandemic is having significant impact on the health, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the district. As activity and resource planning progress, assessment will be made to ensure the optimisation of health, social, economic and environmental benefits.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.6 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.7 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: Existing service delivery and the introduction of new policies to date have been covered by equalities impact assessments. As further activities and resource planning progress, equality impacts assessments will be made to ensure no differential impacts to equality groups occur.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
The COVID 19 pandemic results in increased demand on the Council's resources	<p>The delivery of services and initiatives may not focus sufficiently on addressing the cause of issues.</p> <p>Customer and stakeholder expectation may not be met.</p> <p>The council may not have all the necessary expertise, powers or duties to address the impacts of the crisis</p>	<p>Ensure responses are informed by up to date intelligence derived from customers, stakeholders and partner organisations</p> <p>Ensure the Council prioritises its activities towards addressing the impact of the pandemic, promoting recovery and renewal and communicates its activities to customers, residents and partners</p>

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
	The Council may not have the financial capacity to address all requirements requested of the Council	<p>Ensure the Council works collaboratively with other organisations to ensure common priorities in the South Lakeland area, the coordination of resources, knowledge and expertise</p> <p>Ensure continued robust financial planning for the immediate and medium terms, including maximising recovery of costs and lost income from Government</p> <p>Ensure the particular needs of the district are reported and lobbied with Government to promote additional Government support.</p>
Working at pace could lead the Council into undertaking activities which are more in the remit of other organisations	<p>Increased demand on the Council's human and financial resources</p> <p>Sub optimal use of resources available in an area</p>	Ensure the Council works collaboratively with other organisations to ensure common priorities in the South Lakeland area, the coordination of resources, knowledge and expertise
Working at pace could risk robust decision making.	Decision making could be open to challenge and not best serve the needs of the district	<p>Ensure utilisation of approved emergency decision making procedures</p> <p>Ensure strong risk assessment processes when developing proposals</p>

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	South Lakeland District Council – Shaping COVID19 response paper

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Cabinet Report 20 May 2020 Finance Update – Impact of Covid-19 Ref CEX/13	https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=4728&Ver=4
Cabinet Report 20 May 2020 Council Plan Performance Monitoring Quarter 4 2019/20 Ref CEX/16 (Strategic Risk Register)	https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=4727&Ver=4

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	05/07/2020	06/07/2020
Section 151 Officer	05/07/2020	
Monitoring Officer	05/07/2020	06/07/2020
CMT	05/07/2020	06/07/2020

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	10/06/2020
Human Resources Lead Specialist	
Communications Team	
Leader	
Committee Chairman	
Portfolio Holder	05/07/2020
Ward Councillor(s)	
Committee	17/07/2020
Executive (Cabinet)	
Council	