

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 15 January 2021
COVID-19 Recovery Workshop Report

Portfolio:	All
Report from:	David Sykes – Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Report Author:	David Sykes – Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Wards:	(All Wards);
Forward Plan:	Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 During October, the Committee held a ward councillor workshop to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic within the district of South Lakeland. The Committee is keen to understand needs which the Council should take into account when promoting recovery.
- 1.2 It is expected that the Committee will be able to consider the outcomes of the workshop and make resulting recommendations to Cabinet, other organisations and for the Committee's future work programme.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee :-

- (1) Receive and note the summary of issues identified in the workshop on the 23rd October 2020 – attached as Appendix 2; and**
- (2) Consider the draft recommendations arising from the workshop as described in Appendix 1 and:**
 - a. Approve that the recommendations identified in column 1 are made to Cabinet for address in the Council's strategies**
 - b. Approve that the recommendations identified in column 2 are made to Cabinet for address in the Council's services and initiatives**
 - c. Approve that the Committee communicates the recommendations identified in column 3 to the respective organisations**
 - d. Approves that recommendations in column 4 are taken forward in the Committee's work programme**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report at the Committee's July meeting on the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee agreed as part of their 2020/21 Work Programme to host a Members' Workshop to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic within the district of South Lakeland.

- 3.2 There is still much uncertainty with COVID-19. The Council are still responding to the pandemic, yet it is appropriate to think strategically about what lies ahead and what the Council and partners may need to put in place. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can start to consider different topics arising from the pandemic, can provide a constructive challenge, can amplify the voice and concerns of community, and can help drive improvement in the Council's services to meet the demands of COVID19
- 3.3 The response to the COVID-19 pandemic is continually developing at national and local level. Implementation of any recommendations will need to take account of current approaches to manage the response to infections whilst developing efforts on recovery.
- 3.4 Structured around three themes of Health and Wellbeing, Resilience and Economy, the purpose of the workshop was to hear the Members' voice concerning:-
- matters of concern which the COVID-19 pandemic is generating in their wards, including the 'second wave' ;
 - examples of how communities in their wards have responded to local issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 - how communities may best recover and prosper following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 Appendix 2 provides a summary of the issues raised in the workshop. It is recommended that the Committee receive and note the summary.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 sets out a series of proposed recommendations resulting from the issues identified in the workshop. The recommendations are grouped as those which
- the Council should take into account in the development of its strategies
 - should be taken account in the planning and delivery of council services and initiatives
 - other organisations could take action on
 - the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could undertake a more in depth review as part of its future work programme.
- 3.7 The recommendations relating to strategy generally reinforce and bring greater emphasis to strategic directions identified in the Council Plan. There is particular reference to additional consideration of strategy for the relationship and joint working between the Council and the community and voluntary sector. This reflects the depth and effectiveness of the sector in responding to the crisis and how these benefits can be better sustained. Further, it is also recommended that this is considered in greater depth in the Committee's work programme.
- 3.8 The recommendations relating to the Council's services and initiatives generally point to requirement to ensure appropriate focus and prioritisation of delivery activity.
- 3.9 The workshop identified concerns for the health of residents, particularly with regard to coping with the stresses of isolation and impact on financial security. Impacts could be widespread and long lasting. This concern informs the recommendation for the Committee to consider a more in depth exploration of health issues arising from the pandemic and how collaborative responses between the voluntary, health and local government sectors may best address recovery.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Ward councillors were invited to participate in the workshop

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The Committee could consider removing or adding draft recommendations to those identified in Appendix 1

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, including the considerations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will inform the annual review of the Council Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 The significant financial implications of the COVID19 crisis and the actions the Council needs to take are considered through the quarterly financial monitoring reports, the development of the 2021/22 budget and revisions to the Medium Term Financial Plan. It is not expected that the proposed recommendations would lead to additional cost, but rather potential for prioritising and focussing resources.

Human Resources

7.2 The workshop recognised 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. Responding to the pandemic has placed significant extra demands on the Council's workforce and members. Change in service requirements has human resources implications and any sustained need for change to human resources will be considered in resource planning moving forward.

Legal

7.3 Responding to the pandemic has brought numerous additions to legislative and regulatory frameworks which enable and require the Council to amend or introduce new procedures and ways of working e.g. Virtual meetings. 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 The COVID 19 pandemic is having significant impact on the health, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the district. Aspects of this were explored by the workshop. In taking the draft recommendations forward, assessment will be made to ensure the optimisation of health, social, economic and environmental benefits.

Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.8 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
<p>The COVID 19 pandemic results in increased demand on the Council's resources</p>	<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>The Council may not have the financial capacity to address all requirements requested of the Council</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> <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>
<p>The needs of the districts communities resulting from the impacts of the pandemic may not be recognised</p>	<p>Recovery planning and resultant activity may not address need</p>	<p>Use of intelligence and the views and advice of other partners are assessed and inform recovery planning</p>

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Draft recommendations arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee COVID19 recovery workshop 23rd October 2020

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
2	Summary of issues identified in the workshop on the 23rd October 2020

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report – 17th July 2020 “Shaping the COVID 19 pandemic response”	https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/documents/s29610/Shaping%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic%20Response.pdf https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/documents/s29611/Shaping%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic%20Response%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	23/11	21/12/2020
Section 151 Officer	23/11	05/01/2021
Monitoring Officer	23/11	21/12/2020
CMT	23/11	23/11

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	23/11
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	23/11
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	04/12
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A