

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET: 8 JUNE 2020
SUBJECT:	Croydon Together: Update on our ongoing response to Covid-19
LEAD OFFICER:	Jo Negrini, Chief Executive
CABINET MEMBERS:	Councillor Tony Newman, Leader of the Council and all Cabinet Members
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on a global scale, including the UK and Croydon. Our response has been wide ranging, as will the recovery, covering all aspects of the Corporate Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives: through our public health messaging, adult social care and support for vulnerable residents• Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential: through our support for schools and families, particularly the most vulnerable• Business moves here and invests, our existing businesses grow: by paying government grants and support with business rates	
FINANCIAL IMPACT: Whilst this report is for information, and therefore does not have any direct financial impact, it is clear that Covid-19 will have a significant impact on both the Council's financial position, as well as the financial position of residents and businesses across the borough.	
KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: N/A	
The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below	
1. RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.1 That the Cabinet note the report and the actions taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic	

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report follows a comprehensive report to Cabinet on 11 May, detailing the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic was having in Croydon, and how the Council and our partners were responding to support residents and businesses across the borough.
- 2.2 The impact is far reaching. There has been over 250,000 cases of Covid-19 in the UK, and over 35,000 fatalities. This is a significant increase since the

previous report, but the data suggests the country has 'passed the peak', with the number of new infections reducing.

- 2.3 As well as the immediate response to the pandemic, the Council has been preparing for the recovery phase and how services and facilities will operate after the lockdown is lifted. The impact of Covid-19 will be felt for the next 18-24 months, with social distancing and other measures required until a vaccine is developed.
- 2.4 The Government has published a roadmap for lifting the lockdown restrictions, as well as revised guidance to support individuals and organisations as they seek to stay safe. This is informing our planning for each phase of the Government roadmap.
- 2.5 All organisations, including the Council, have been required to rapidly redesign the way they deliver goods and services whilst maintaining physical (social) distancing, for the protection of both users and staff. The Council has worked with partners to support residents, particularly the most vulnerable, prioritising key services and redeploying resources to provide support where it is most needed. As the lockdown lifts, a wider range of services need to be redesigned to operate within social distancing guidelines.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 11 May 2020, a report was received providing an update on the Council's response to the Covid-19 virus. The report provided background information on the pandemic, including the latest information on infections across the UK and locally in Croydon.
- 3.2 The report confirmed that as a communicable disease, without any vaccine or scientific intervention, the immediate impact of Covid-19 will be felt for the next 18-24 months.
- 3.3 The Council has been working with partners to develop our renewal and recovery plans that balance the impact of ongoing protective measures and social distancing with the need to reopen services and support residents and businesses.
- 3.4 Whilst this report provides updated information regarding the response to Covid-19, the majority of the report is focused on the activities to support residents, businesses and staff as the lockdown is lifted. In particular, information is given regarding the plans for council services which will continue to be impacted for to ongoing measures to protect staff and service users from Covid-19.
- 3.5 Since the previous Cabinet report the national data would suggest that the country has indeed passed the 'peak' of the pandemic, with infection levels and deaths reducing consistently.
- 3.6 As at 5pm on 18 May, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Croydon was 1,485, compared to 1,388 cases on 3 May (the data included in the last Cabinet report). This shows an increase of 97 new infections.

3.7 As at 5pm on 18 May, the number of confirmed Covid-19 deaths at Croydon University Hospital was 295, compared to 259 on 3 May (the data included in the last Cabinet report).

4. CROYDON RESPONSE - UPDATE

- 4.1 This section of the report provides brief updates on the key elements of the Croydon response. The response continues Croydon Council and partners within the Local Strategic Partnership (which is chaired by the Leader of the Council), have worked together to respond to the impact of Covid-19 in Croydon.
- 4.2 The Council's emergency response structure remain in place, including Gold and Coordination and Contingency Planning groups. The Borough Emergency Control Centre continues to support these structures, collecting, collating and disseminating information to support quick and informed decisions and to / from London structures. Dashboards are produced on a daily basis within the latest information across a range of indicators.
- 4.3 The Leader of the Council has continued to chair weekly meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership. These meetings have been critical in coordinating the response across partner organisations, enabling frequent and honest communications and collaboration to tackle the challenges faced across Croydon.
- 4.4 The Council's cabinet has been meeting informally regularly throughout the pandemic. Cabinet Members continue to work closely with their relevant officers to inform the Council's response and plan for future recovery.

Care homes

- 4.5 There has been national coverage regarding the number of Covid-19 infections and deaths within care homes. As Croydon has more care homes than any other part of London, this has been a key area of focus for our response.
- 4.6 The Council has enacted our Care Home System Response Plan, which includes enhanced hospital discharge arrangements, PPE supply, and advanced payment to support cash flow.
- 4.7 Gold has received daily updates on the demand for beds, the capacity within the sector and the impact of Covid-19 on care homes. The number of care homes with residents displaying Covid-19 symptoms has reduced since the previous report, as has the overall number of care home residents displaying symptoms. Regrettably, there have been 147 Covid-19 deaths within Croydon care homes (as of 18 May).

Shielding and vulnerable residents

- 4.8 On 11 May, the Government published revised guidance (stay alert, stay safe). This guidance, however, confirmed that shielded residents (as identified by NHS and GPs due to pre-existing health conditions) need to continue to stay

safe by staying at home. Other people that are particularly vulnerable should continue to take care to minimise contact with others outside their household.

- 4.9 As of 18 May, there were 14,054 shielded residents in Croydon, of whom 2,800 needed support to get basic supplies as they do not have friends/family nearby to undertake tasks for them. The Government has organised food parcels for these residents (6,261 as of 18 May), but the Council is providing interim and additional support, including 1,552 essential supplies parcels.
- 4.10 Our Gateway services continue to respond to an increase in requests for emergency funding for residents needing food, amenities, rent and other essentials, as well as increased demand for welfare rights advice, debt management and free school meals support, and increased support for destitute residents who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).
- 4.11 The Council established a quick and simple online form for any resident wishing to defer their Council Tax payments for 2 months. 3,583 residents applied for this deferral.

Voluntary and Community Sector support

- 4.12 As set out above, Covid-19 has created a significant increase in vulnerable residents for a variety of reasons. Many of these residents have turned to the voluntary and community sector, and the council is working closely with the sector to provide support to the most vulnerable residents.
- 4.13 Many voluntary and community groups have responded to the pandemic and offered new services, or redesigned services to continue supporting vulnerable residents during the lock down.
- 4.14 Advice and guidance has been provided through a weekly webinar for VCS groups across Croydon as well as regular communication between the Council and the VCS infrastructure organisations.
- 4.15 The Council established a new fund titled 'Croydon's VCS Covid-19 Emergency Fund' to support VCS groups that are responding directly to Covid-19 in Croydon. As of 15 May 2020, 71 bids had been received for the Covid-19 emergency fund. Of these:
- 36 bids had been approved, totalling £185,951
 - 34 bids had been declined, totalling £224,219
 - 1 bid was under consideration, or further information was being sought, totalling £6,801
- 4.16 As the pandemic has progressed, so has the focus of the fund – with a shift from short term issues such as food provision to medium term issues such as mental health, domestic violence and social isolation.

Business and supplier support

- 4.17 Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on the local economy. It is clear that the virus will lead to a global recession. Croydon is a major business centre, and the impact on the local economy will therefore be significant.

4.18 Croydon has been allocated £60.6m to support businesses with grants of £10k or £25k payable, based on business rate values. Businesses need to complete a simple application process. £42.06m has been paid to 3,101 Croydon businesses as of 18 May. This equates to 69.4% of the business grant budget. 3,101 businesses paid are 74% of all 4,218 eligible businesses in Croydon. The Council continues to contact all businesses to ensure they are aware of this funding and to support them through the simple verification process and make payments as quickly as possible.

5. GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE AND ROADMAP

5.1 As set out in the previous section, the Council and our partners continue to support residents and businesses in responding to Covid-19. On 11 May, the Government published revised guidance and a roadmap for removing the lockdown restrictions.

5.2 The Government roadmap set out a three phased approach:

- Phase 1 sought to contain, delay, research and mitigate.
- Phase 2: smarter controls, replacing existing social restrictions with smarter measures to control the epidemic, developed and announced in periodic 'steps' over the coming weeks and months
- Phase 3: reliable treatment (eradication is unlikely)

5.3 We are currently in phase 2. It is important to note that throughout this phase, people will still need to minimise the spread through good hygiene, social distancing and regular disinfecting of surfaces. The roadmap sets out the need for public and work spaces to be redesigned to make any social contact safer, including track and trace monitoring.

5.4 There are 3 steps within phase 2 with gaps between steps of several weeks, to allow monitoring.

- Step 1: exercise more than once a day, outdoor public places open
- Step 2: phased return for primary schools, non-essential retail
- Step 3: places of worship, leisure facilities, hospitality

The precise timetable will depend on the infection risk at each point and effectiveness of mitigation measures.

5.5 Step 1 was implemented from Wednesday 13 May. This encouraged businesses to open (unless they were required to close) and for people to go to work if they were unable to work from home. Advice was changed to recommend that people wear face coverings when in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not always possible (e.g. on public transport) to protect against transmission.

5.6 In order to avoid crowds in urban parks, the revised guidance confirmed that people could drive to public spaces, irrespective of distance. Unlimited exercise was permitted, as was spending time outside for leisure. People are also allowed to meet with one person from outside their household, provided social distancing is maintained. Playgrounds, outdoor gyms and ticketed outdoor leisure venues must remain closed in step 1.

- 5.7 The Director of Public Health for Croydon has advised that this is a very dangerous phase within the pandemic. It is critical that people do not become complacent and that social distancing and good hygiene are maintained.
- 5.8 Step 2 will be implemented no earlier than 1 June. This step includes
- the phased return for early years settings and schools. Further details are set out below regarding the implications and planning to support this in Croydon.
 - the phased opening of non-essential retail and where social distancing can be maintained.
 - Reopening more local public transport
- 5.9 Step 3 will be implemented no earlier than 4 July. The Government's ambition at this step is to open at least some of the remaining businesses and premises that have been required to close, including personal care (such as hairdressers and beauty salons) hospitality (such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation), public places (such as places of worship) and leisure facilities (like cinemas). Government guidelines will need to be met and where social distancing may prove difficult, some venues will remain closed. The Government will phase and pilot re-openings to test their ability to adopt guidelines.
- 5.10 The roadmap and guidance documents are clear that this is not a short-term crisis. Covid-19 will circulate in the human population long term, possibly causing periodic epidemics. Large epidemic waves cannot be excluded without continuing some measures. There is no easy or quick solution. Only a vaccine or effective drugs can reliably control this epidemic and reduce mortality without some form of social distancing/contact tracing.

6. REOPENING CROYDON

- 6.1 As set out in the Cabinet report on 11 May, the Council has been developing plans for how and when to reopen services and facilities for residents and businesses. This work is being coordinated with partners to ensure that a consistent approach is undertaken and public health messages remain clear and easy for everyone to follow. Decisions on when to open services and facilities is also being coordinated across London.
- 6.2 The Council has been developing a recovery strategy for its services, and linking this with the actions of our partners to ensure a connected and coordinated approach to providing services and support to our residents and businesses. The Croydon Together approach will focus on 4 key areas of work:
- Continued support for vulnerable residents: as set out above, many residents will need to continue shielding, with other vulnerable residents needing to take particular care. As well as essential supplies, support such as mental health and befriending services will be needed.
 - Environment and sustainability, focused on short/medium term improvements: creating a sustainable Croydon is not new ambition, and in the renewal and recovery phase we need to ensure that this remains a central aspect to support quality of life

- Economic recovery and support for businesses: the impact on businesses will last beyond a lockdown. A separate report on our approach is elsewhere on the agenda.
- Building on the strong local community structures that have provided support to residents: ensuring that our activities are coordinated with the community activities that have developed, and linked with our approach for prevention and early intervention at a locality level.

6.3 The approach will not be about restoring services to an 'as was' arrangement. All services need to adapt to new demands and new operational requirements. Where services have needed to adapt quickly, we need to ensure that these adaptations are suitable for the medium term. Where services have closed due to the pandemic, we need to consider if and when they can be restored safely, whilst still maintaining capacity to support priority 1 services at all times.

6.4 Services will continue to adjust and change as they respond to the needs of residents and businesses in a very different environment. The use of remote technology has been adopted rapidly and widely in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the council will be identifying how this can support efficient and effective service delivery.

Workforce and buildings

6.5 Government guidance has been issued for all employers to ensure that workplaces are as safe as possible. At the time of writing, the advice continues to be that if staff can work from home they should. Croydon council, and many of our partners, have implemented this very successfully. Our digital platforms enable staff to access the council's IT network from home, and we have provided MS Teams on all laptops to support virtual meetings and working. Training was offered to all staff to support this.

6.6 As set out above, however, this did require some services to adapt or to stop. This ensured that we were able to continue to providing priority 1 services. As we restart some of these services, even with continued changes to how they are delivered, more of our staff will be required to be physically at work in one of the Councils buildings.

6.7 The Government guidance is clear that workplaces will need to be adapted to support social distancing. As an example, in order to maintain social distancing within Bernard Wetherill House we can only support approximately 30% of the normal staffing levels. Continued changes to the way we work will therefore be required.

6.8 A task and finish group is coordinating work in this area, matching service and building requirements. An assessment of essential physical office requirements has been completed for each service. This has been on the basis that:

- We should keep the agile service delivery that has been enabled
- We should keep digital by default for public access/contact
- We blend short touch-down space with required presence in the building

6.9 Each building across the Council's estate has been reviewed to assess its suitability for staff to work within based on social distancing guidance. The suitability for each site was also based on elements such as desk spaces, Wi-

Fi, DDA compliance, parking, bike storage and food/catering. The buildings were then given a red / amber / green rating:

- Green are deemed as suitable for staff and should be opened as part of Phase 1.
- Amber are deemed as suitable but would recommend these are opened as part of Phase 2.
- Red are deemed as not suitable.

- 6.10 All services are being asked to consider options that support social distancing requirements, including 7 day working week, shift working and staggered start and finish times. These actions also offer flexibility for staff that may continue to have caring responsibilities.
- 6.11 Draft plans have been developed for each directorate to support service planning. The Council's first priority is to ensure that all staff can continue to operate in a safe environment. Priority for office space will then be based on the essential category of each service, where it is necessary for them to be in an office. Consideration will also be given to staff who cannot work from home for personal or other reasons.
- 6.12 Throughout the pandemic we have introduced enhanced cleaning standards across our buildings, and ensured there are supplies of essential items such as cleaning wipes and anti-bacterial gel. Additional PPE has been ordered in advance of more staff working in the building.

Schools

- 6.13 The Government announced that all schools were required to close after Friday 20 March for most students. This measure was introduced as part of the lockdown in order to reduce the risk of transmission.
- 6.14 Schools remained open only for selected students:
- Children of key workers
 - Children which are vulnerable
 - Children that have an Educational Health care Plan
 - Children with a social worker
- 6.15 The Council has worked to support all schools to operate safely during very difficult circumstances, providing for these students whilst following government guidance and maintaining social distancing. Schools have also had to ensure safe staffing levels, supporting staff that are vulnerable / shielded, show symptoms or have caring responsibilities. Daily reports are provided by each school confirming student and staff numbers each day.
- 6.16 On 20 May, ninety three schools were open across Croydon, with 1,151 children attending. This number has grown steadily since the start of the lockdown. Schools that have been unable to open have been supported to create a hub model with other schools.
- 6.17 Schools continue to support students not attending school through remote and home learning. This required schools and teachers to rapidly respond to the lockdown and produce home learning packs, introduce online lessons and digital classrooms and establish safeguarding arrangements.

- 6.18 As set out earlier in the report, the Government roadmap announced plans for a phased reopening of schools from 1 June at the earliest. The roadmap set out plans for:
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to be back in school in smaller sizes, so that youngest children and those preparing for transition to secondary school have maximum time with their teachers
 - Secondary schools and FE colleges to prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning.
- 6.19 The Government has also stated that the ambition is for all primary children to return to school before the summer, if feasible.
- 6.20 The Council has been working with schools to support their preparations for welcoming back students. A schools reopening working group has been established with a group of 8 school leaders across the range of schools. Locality meetings with smaller groups of primary leaders took place in mid-May.
- 6.21 A guidance paper has been developed and shared with schools. This included a checklist with key questions to support leaders with completing risk assessments. The Education directorate have set out a clear support offer for schools over the coming weeks and months.
- 6.22 Consultative meetings have also been held with all primary, infant and junior leaders based on locality. Meetings have also been held with professional associations and Trade Unions to share concerns and raise any key questions. The Council has shared concerns with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Economic renewal

- 6.23 It is clear that the pandemic has had a devastating impact on the economy. Businesses have faced cash flow challenges and closure due to lock down.
- 6.24 The Government roadmap is clear that businesses should open, unless specifically required to close. The roadmap sets out plans for the phased reopening of the retail sector, followed by the leisure sector.
- 6.25 However, social distancing requirements means that even as these sectors reopen, they will not be returning to how things were before Covid-19. Consumer behaviour will continue to be impacted.
- 6.26 The Council and key partners have established a Sustainable Croydon Economic Renewal Board. This will take a cross-disciplinary approach to foster and support an economic renewal that will result in a more equal, inclusive and environmentally sustainable local economy. It will across both the public and private sector and in collaboration with the Croydon Sustainable Commission, to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of the economic renewal. Full details are set out in a separate agenda item to Cabinet.

Rough sleeping

- 6.27 As part of the safeguarding arrangements during the lockdown, the Council worked with partners across London to provide accommodation for all rough sleepers. 160 rough sleepers were accommodated within Croydon. Of these, 89 were Croydon verified rough sleepers. Between 18 and 20 rough sleepers in Croydon refused accommodation support.
- 6.28 A number of additional accommodation units were procured to support this activity. This will not be sustainable after the lockdown lifts and the Council has been working with London partners to develop an exit strategy.
- 6.29 This will seek to ensure that those who have been laced in emergency accommodation in response to Covid-19 are not asked to leave the accommodation without an ongoing offer of support to end their rough sleeping.
- 6.30 This exit strategy will need to take into consideration accommodation capacity that is potentially put under pressure by the need to rehouse other cohorts. The Council has a strong partnership with the national homelessness charity, Crisis. They have given in principle agreement to support this strategy with tenancy sustainment and start up packs.

Parking enforcement

- 6.31 On 24 March, London Councils issued guidance to all councils (reported in national media) that enforcement should focus on obstructive and unsafe parking, while relaxing the enforcement of bay contraventions. They recommended that the civil enforcement officers should move on illegally parked cars and not necessarily issue a penalty charge notice.
- 6.32 It is recognised parking and traffic management is an important public service, which provides benefits for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and the wider community. Those benefits include maintaining road safety and access to jobs, goods and services.
- 6.33 Transport is one of the most important factors in ensuring we continue to control the virus and save lives, whilst enabling a phased reintroduction of previously relaxed traffic / parking management and enforcement is therefore necessary to help manage a safe and controlled recovery. As people try to avoid public transport, demand on parking will increase and the reintroduction of charges and enforcement will be necessary to ensure priority can be maintained for those who need it most.
- 6.34 The Croydon Streetspace programme is the combined effort on social distancing, pop up cycle lanes, widened footways and road closures. The table below provides further information on our parking service restart plan:

26 May	Processing of parking permit applications and parking charges restart.
1 June	Subject to schools restarting from this date, CCTV parking enforcement of schools will start issuing warning notices
8 June	Start with issuing warning notices for on street in bay contraventions

	<p>Full CCTV enforcement restarts, School Streets to help reduce school run traffic and establish enforcement to protect social distancing</p> <p>Ongoing issuance of PCN for yellow lines and dangerous offences with proactive enforcement.</p>
22 June	<p>Restart of enforcement in parking permit bays – subject to any new and contradictory guidance from London Councils or the government.</p> <p>Plus any backlog in processing of permit, in these case for expired permits will be temporarily not enforced.</p> <p>All other residents will be requested to P&D</p>

- 6.35 The current advice from London Councils is that local authority parking enforcement teams should not issue Penalty Charge Notices to citizens using Blue Badges where an expiry date of the 1st January 2020 onwards. This will continue until guidance changes.
- 6.36 The Government’s free parking concession and supporting parking pass scheme for the NHS and health and social care staff and NHS COVID 19 volunteers (critical care workers) will continue to operate until government advises of its withdrawal.

Track and trace

- 6.37 A key element of the Government roadmap is to have more sophisticated virus monitoring systems. A track and trace system will enable more specific controls for people that have contact with anyone that develops the virus.
- 6.38 Track and trace are vital components of any strategy to manage the spread of infections at community level. It is a tried and tested method used by Local Authorities with Public Health England over many years to tackle communicable disease, and has been a critical component of the effective management of Covid-19 in other countries.
- 6.39 Track and trace systems are being developed and piloted by Government, with phone and app based elements. The Director of Public Health is supporting this activity with London wide coordination in place.
- 6.40 In the instance an outbreak is identified, the model will mobilise a co-ordinated regional and local response. In a local outbreak of a notifiable disease the Local Authority Director of Public Health will be expected to undertake a key-role in containing an outbreak in a key-complex setting (e.g. sheltered housing, care-home, school, key business, public service setting), enabled and supported by regional resources.
- 6.41 The position of the national tracing model is very dynamic, with core elements of the model being developed, designed and iterated on a daily basis.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- 6.42 Our dedicated PPE team has continued to coordinate orders, secure supplies and distribute stock. The team are also responding to enquiries, offers of help

(e.g. from local businesses) and requests for emergency supplies from providers.

- 6.43 The Council has maintained sufficient supplies for council staff and at no stage has services been impacted by a lack of PPE. In addition, and where required, emergency PPE supplies have been provided to suppliers (including Care Homes, Home Care), particularly in adult services.
- 6.44 As set out earlier, the Council has also secured additional supplies to support staff as we reopen services and buildings.

Parks and open spaces

- 6.45 We recognise the importance of people having access to outdoor spaces during the pandemic and our parks and open spaces have remained open across the borough. Playgrounds have been closed and outdoor gyms were not permitted to be used as part of lock down measures.
- 6.46 This has been supported by communications messages reminding everyone of the importance of maintaining social distancing within parks and open spaces. The Council has no enforcement powers in relation to the lockdown, so we continue to work with police colleagues where concerns are reported.
- 6.47 The revised guidance issued by the Government on 11 May included changes to some aspects of outdoor spaces. People are now permitted to drive to outdoor spaces, regardless of distance, and some outdoor facilities were permitted to be used.
- 6.48 In response to this the Council has reopened park car parks to their pre Covid-19 schedule. Tennis courts have been reopened with additional signage to remind people of social distancing guidelines. Revised signage has also been placed on basketball courts, skate facilities and MUGAs.
- 6.49 Playgrounds and outdoor gyms will continue to be taped off, with signage confirming that they are closed and cannot be used. Toilets will also remain closed.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The dedicated Covid-19 risk register is managed by the Coordination and Continuity Group with regular reports to Gold to ensure the risks are well managed and mitigating actions is taken.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There has been no formal consultations, due to the urgency needs in responding to the Covid-19 emergency. However, communications with partners has been key, as set out earlier in the report.
- 8.2 Communication with staff has also been critical. As services have been redesigned and staff redeployed to support front line services, regular

communications with all staff has been key. Communications have included direct emails, intranet articles, briefings and Q&A sessions with the Chief Executive.

9 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 As reported to Cabinet on 11 May, and reported nationally, the Covid-19 response has created significant financial pressures for local government.
- 9.2 Since the previous Cabinet report, the Government has announced a further £600m of funding to support social care response to Covid-19 (infection control in care homes). This is in addition to the £3.2bn of additional funding previously announced for local government (of which Croydon received £19.9m).
- 9.3 However, The LGA has indicated that, nationally, the estimated financial impact is four or five times the amounts committed by government so far. As such, Croydon's allocation within this does not cover the anticipated whole year financial impact on the Council at this stage, due to the substantial increase in demand for supporting vulnerable residents, as well as the reduction in income as a result of the lockdown.
- 9.4 Ministers have indicated on a number of occasions that they recognise the financial impact on local authorities and are committed to supporting local government financially. We continue to provide feedback to MHCLG and London Councils regarding the costs being incurred.
- 9.6 There is a risk that the government may not fund all costs incurred as a result of Covid-19 and we know now that our costs will be greater than the funding allocated to date.
- 9.7 In response to this risk, the Council has established a Finance Review Board. This Board, which includes external financial experts, will support the council to develop and implement financial plans in response to the Covid-19 cost pressures.

Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk

10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law makes the following comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance.
- 10.2 The Coronavirus Act 2020 is the government's main legislative change in response to the pandemic. Most of its provisions came into effect on 25 March 2020 but detailed further legislation in the form of statutory instruments and government guidance have been issued since that date and continue to be published. The Act has temporarily modified duties and powers relating to social care, mental health, registration of deaths, inquests, the regulation of investigatory powers, gatherings events and premises, the postponement of elections, virtual local authority meetings and protection from eviction. Other

changes to existing legislation and statutory guidance continue to be monitored by the legal service.

Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 11.1 The Covid-19 has had a very direct impact on people across Croydon, including staff.
- 11.2 As well as our responsibilities to residents, we have a duty of care to all staff. The Council as continued to ensure that staff have the guidance and equipment they need to carry out their work safely. This includes PPE.
- 11.3 As set out in the report, it is anticipated that most staff will continue to work remotely wherever they can, and in line with Government guidance. Risk assessment and social distancing adjustments will be completed before services restart and staff return to offices / other facilities.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

12. EQUALITY IMPACT

- 12.1 There is no direct equality impacts arising from this report.
- 12.2 As set out in the previous Cabinet report, the impact of the virus is far reaching. The combined and unprecedented impact on the local economy, both on businesses and the workforce, will exacerbate inequalities, with some groups disproportionately impacted for the short, medium and long term. Data is increasingly highlighting that younger people are more likely to see reduced earnings or increased unemployment due to Covid-19.
- 12.3 Significant actions have been taken to safeguard vulnerable residents and certain population groups. In addition, the new Sustainable Croydon Economic Renewal Board has equality and inclusion as a core element of its remit.
- 12.4 The Government has launched a review, led by the NHS and Public Health England regarding the disproportionate impact on BAME residents. The Director for Public Health in Croydon has already engaged with national colleagues to ensure Croydon is involved in the review. The Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon & Communities and the Councillor BAME Champion have been working with community groups to ensure the local impact in Croydon is fed into the review.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

13. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

13.1 There has been a noticeable improvement in air quality and pollution levels across Croydon (as well as London, UK and globally). This provide an opportunity to take action in order to maintain the improved environment. The Leader of the Council has therefore asked the Croydon Commission for Climate Change to refocus its attention on short and medium term actions over the next 3 years.

14. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

14.1 The police have reported a reduction in many crime rates during the Covid-19 pandemic.

14.2 However, there is concern about the potential for increased domestic abuse and sexual violence as a result of the lockdown, with people spending more time in doors. There is also the risk that it is harder for victims to report crimes or request help if they remain in lock down.

14.3 The FJC service has continued to be delivered throughout the lockdown. The service expanded to offer 7 days a week provision, to maximize the opportunity for anyone to contact them for support.

14.4 The Council has worked with partners and issued regular communications to raise awareness of the services available.

15. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

15.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

NO

15.2 The Director of Policy & Partnership advises that this report provides updates only, with no decisions that impact on data.

Approved by: Gavin Handford, Director of Policy & Partnership

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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None