

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 22 JUNE 2020

UPDATE ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Summary

1. The Leader and the Chief Executive of the Council have been invited to provide an update on the County Council's response to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

Background

2. COVID-19 has meant unprecedented changes to lives across the globe. In the UK, on 23 March the Prime Minister asked the public to stay at home, to protect the NHS and to save lives. Schools were closed nationally from the end of Friday 20 March, whilst being required to provide a service for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
3. Following Government guidance, on 16 March 2020 the Council moved away from business as usual activity and established an emergency planning approach to developing and enabling its response to the pandemic, whilst continuing to meet statutory duties.
4. Now, as the Council begins to move out of the response phase and into recovery, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is keen to discuss the impact on services and staff, and how they have been able to respond.
5. Throughout the pandemic, all County Councillors have been kept informed about the Council's response through regular Directorate briefings. Following an informal meeting on 14 May, OSPB Members have also received further updates from the Leader on specific issues raised.
6. On 4 June, Cabinet received an update on action taken by the Council in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and this report is attached as Appendix 1.
7. The Board has asked the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) to consider how services have been affected, to highlight any emerging issues and to review current work programmes in light of this. Chairmen are invited to feedback on their Panels' / Committee's discussions.

Purpose of the meeting

8. Members are invited to consider and comment on the information discussed and agree:
 - any comments to highlight to the Leader of the Council
 - whether any further information or scrutiny work is required at this time

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Covid-19 Response Cabinet report 4 June 2020

Contact Points

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962 / 844963

Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- [Agenda for Cabinet held on 4 June 2020](#)