



Council

Monday 29 June 2020

Subject: Discussion Paper - COVID 19 Impact on West Lindsey District Council's Residents, Services, Performance and Finances to date

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

This report serves as an aide for a wider general discussion by Elected Members on the impact of COVID 19 on West Lindsey District Council's Residents, Services, Performance and Finances to date.

Members will also receive verbal information from Derek Ward, Director of Public Health Lincolnshire during the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- (1) That Members discuss the impact of COVID 19 on West Lindsey District Council's Residents, Services, Performance and Finances to date and be provided an opportunity to question senior managers of the Authority for assurance purposes; and**
- (2) That Members determine whether they would wish to hold a further informal workshop on the ongoing impact of COVID-19 towards the end of July 2020.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/39/21/TJB

The Council has received £1.001m in funding from the Government to support the financial pressure of Covid-19, this falls short of our current early estimates and assumptions by some £2m. The impacts are still evolving and are likely to have a longer term impact.

The additional costs and income losses in relation to our Covid-19 response are being monitored regularly and a Revised Budget 2020/21 and a Mid Year Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan will be presented to the November Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

We have received £0.084m to support the safe recovery of our high streets.

We have re-designated £100k to a Covid-19 Community Grant Fund to support local community initiatives.

In addition we have received Government funding to support our economy through the following grant allocations and which we are administering;

Council Tax Hardship Fund - £0.793m

Business Rates Support Grant - £18.664m

Discretionary Business Support Grant - £0.927

Expanded Retail reliefs £6.025m

Staffing :

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Data Protection Implications :

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

Health Implications:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Whilst it has not been necessary for Full Council to meet to take any urgent decisions needed to manage the initial COVID-19 emergency, it is important the Elected Member core are provided the opportunity to come together, as community representatives, to understand how COVID-19 has impacted the District to date, and how the Council plans to move into recovery phases over the coming weeks and months.
- 1.2 This report serves as an aide for a wider general discussion by Elected Members on the impact of COVID 19 on West Lindsey District Council's Residents, Services, Performance and Finances to date.
- 1.3 Senior Managers from across the organisation will be present on the evening to answer any questions and to provide further updated information as requested
- 1.4 Members will also receive a verbal presentation from Mr Derek Ward, Director of Public Health for Lincolnshire and will be provided an opportunity to ask questions of him.

2 Impact on Council Services and Performance

- 2.1 The Impact on Council Services and Performances has been summarised to Members in the most recent Progress and Delivery Report (Appendix B relates)

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/documents/s19195/Appendix%201%20Progress%20and%20Delivery%20Report%20-%20Period%204%20201920.pdf>

- 2.2 Further verbal updates will be provided if requested throughout the debate

3 Impact on Council Finances

- 3.1 The Impact on Council Finances has been summarised to Members in the most recent Budget and Treasury Monitoring Outturn Report.

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/documents/s19546/Appendix%203%20Covid-19%20Update.pdf>

- 2.2 Further verbal updates will be provided if requested throughout the debate.

4 Interim Decision Making and use of Urgent Delegated

- 4.1 The Constitution has been fairly well placed, having already provided sufficient delegated powers to Officers to manage emergency situations.
- 4.2 These delegated powers do require the Head of Paid Service to consult with the relevant Committee Chairman prior to making a decision.
- 4.3 Since the start of lockdown, the Head of Paid Service has extended this Consultation to include both the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.
- 4.4 All Members have been notified of the decisions within 5 working days of them being made, and for those decisions which were already in the forward plan for April and early May (but were subject to meeting cancellations and could not wait until later in the year) Members received a copy of the reports 5 working days in advance of the meeting and were invited to make comment.
- 4.5 With virtual meetings being permitted from April 2020, the Committee timetable has been re-established to some degree and therefore the use of such delegated power may reduce. It is likely, however, that there will still be a need for some decisions to be taken more urgently than a committee can be convened (5 working days notice). The extended consultation will be applied to all such decisions.
- 4.6 The urgent decisions taken to date can be viewed at <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-council/decision-making-and-council-meetings/officer-decisions/> (under the urgent committee decisions tab)

5 Recovery

- 5.1 The Authority has established a number of internal recovery groups. Alan Robinson is leading the Council's Recovery Plan.
- 5.2 The Authority is also involved in a number of County Wide Groups.
- 5.3 Further information in respect of recovery will be provided if requested throughout the debate.