

Report of the Director of Governance

## **The Council's Response to Covid 19**

### **Summary**

1. This report presents, at Annex 1, the Council's immediate response to the Covid 19 pandemic as submitted to and considered by the Executive at its meeting on 7 May 2020.

### **Background**

2. This is the first public meeting of this Committee since the nation began lockdown in response to the worldwide pandemic. As such it provides an opportunity for the Committee to reflect upon how the Council and in part the City responded to the pandemic in terms of its impact on York and its residents;
3. At a second public meeting later the same day, the Committee will have a separate opportunity to look forward and comment upon the recovery work and plan being undertaken by the Executive, put in place on 25 June 2020.

### **Consultation**

4. No specific consultation was required on the preparation of this report. However, all Scrutiny Committee Chairs have been involved in the development of the agenda for this meeting, considering it invaluable for this Committee to recommence its work, as lockdown eases, with an understanding of what the landscape post Covid 19 looks like.
5. The Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Public Health and relevant Corporate Directors have been invited to attend this first meeting to present summaries of the work that has taken place in their areas.

## **Format of Meeting**

6. Firstly, the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Public Health will give an introductory overview of the Council's response to Covid 19. Then, each Corporate Director will be asked to give up to a 5 minute summary presentation (preferably no more than 3 minutes) in their area, covering:
  - What non-essential work stopped during lockdown;
  - What new work had to start;
  - What worked well and what could be improved

Time will be allowed for Members to question after each presentation

## **Options**

7. There are no specific options before the Committee, as this business presents an opportunity for Members to consider and identify any lessons learnt from the Covid 19 experience, in light of the information contained in Annex 1 and of the presentations to be made by relevant Corporate Directors.

## **Analysis**

8. No further analysis is necessary in relation to the issue before the Committee, other than the information contained in Annex 1.

## **Council Plan 2019-23**

9. The Covid 19 pandemic is material to all aspects of the current Council Plan, given that it has impacted upon and will continue to impact upon, as the Council and City emerge through recovery, the delivery of Council and City services.

## **Implications**

10. The relevant implications associated with consideration of this important issue are addressed in Annex 1, which sets out the Council's response to Covid 19.
11. In terms of legal implications associated with decision making, the Government enacted emergency rules giving Councils powers to establish remote meetings, as of 4 April 2020. This Council's provisions can be found from the front page of the City of York Council website.

## **Risk Management**

12. Any appropriate risks associated with or arising from the Council's response to the pandemic are identified in Annex 1.

## **Recommendations**

13. Members are asked to consider the information received, at Annex 1, and from the presentations made at the meeting, and identify any next steps in terms of lessons learnt to take into account for future consideration.

Reason: To ensure that proper and effective scrutiny is in place in relation to the Council's response to Covid 19.

## **Contact Details**

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**Report Approved**  **Date** 24/06/2020

### **Specialist Implications Officer(s):**

Janie Berry, Director of Governance – legal implications

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers: None**

### **Annexes:**

Annex 1 – Council's Response to Covid 19 considered by the Executive on 7 May 2020