

Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee

Date: **28 April 2021**

Time: **4.00pm**

Venue **Hove Town Hall - Council Chamber**

Note: in response to current Government Regulations this meeting is being held as a virtual meeting for councillors and accessible via Teams. Public speaking and engagement opportunities will be made available.

The meeting will also be webcast live to the internet.

Members: **Councillors:** Mac Cafferty (Chair), Platts (Opposition Spokesperson), Miller (Group Spokesperson), Clare and Yates

Contact: **Lisa Johnson**
Democratic Services Manager
01273 291228
lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Electronic agendas can also be accessed through our meetings app available through ModernGov: [iOS/Windows/Android](#)

This agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper

AGENDA

53 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- (a) **Declarations of Substitutes:** Where councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same political group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) **Declarations of Interest:**
 - (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
 - (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
 - (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

- (c) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note: Any item appearing in Part Two of the agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the press and public. A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls and on-line in the Constitution at part 7.1.

54 MINUTES

7 - 22

To approve the minutes of:

- (i) Meeting held on the 3 March 2021 (copy attached)
- (ii) Special Meeting held on 29 March 2021 – Part One (copy attached)

55 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

56 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** To receive any petitions presented by members of the public;
- (b) **Written Questions:** To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 22 April 2021;
- (c) **Deputations:** To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 22 April 2021.

57 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

58 COVID-19 RECOVERY & RENEWAL PROGRAMME UPDATE 23 - 40

Report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture (copy attached)

Contact Officer: *Julie Nicholls*
Ward Affected: *All Wards*

59 ALLOCATION OF CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUNDS 41 - 50

Report of the Acting Chief Finance Officer (copy attached)

Contact Officer: *Nigel Manvell* *Tel: 01273 293104*
Ward Affected: *All Wards*

60 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

To consider whether the items listed in Part Two of the agenda and decisions thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

61 PART TWO MINUTES 51 - 52

To approve the Part Two Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 (copy attached)

PART TWO

ACCESS NOTICE

In response to the current situation with Covid-19 and the easing of Regulations, this Committee meeting will be held virtually via Teams and web cast simultaneously.

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fourth working day before the meeting.

For those members of the public wishing to actively take part in the meeting a link will be emailed so that they can join the meeting.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. Data collected during this web cast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore, by joining the meeting via the link provided you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured, they should ensure they do not use the Teams video facility and provide a static image.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Lisa Johnson, (01273 291228, email lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Tuesday, 20 April 2021

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES (RECOVERY) SUB-COMMITTEE

5.15pm 3 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mac Cafferty (Chair) Miller, Platts, Yates and Clare

PART ONE

35 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

35.1 Councillor Clare confirmed that after the agenda had been published she had been appointed as a permanent member of the Sub- Committee in place of Councillor Gibson.

(b) Declarations of Interests

35.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

35.3 There were no Part Two Items.

36 MINUTES

36.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

37 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

37.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

Following both the announcement of a 'roadmap' and of today's budget announcement in Parliament there are a number of updates I'd like to offer.

Rates of Covid 19

In terms of Covid rates excellent efforts mean that infections in our city are comparably very low; we've come down from an extremely high position. But there's still a long way to go and we are not out of the pandemic. To maintain progress and focus on recovery

we must all continue to follow the Government's directive to stay home and to stay within our local area – this advice has not changed and I'd like to stress that. Also, restrictions will only be lifted on the dates of the four steps in the roadmap if we keep the virus under control. To some extent these could be the most testing weeks and months yet, as some services open up and we still await full vaccination and mass testing and sufficient contact tracing for all, as well as deal with new strains. Of course we have a keen eye on schools reopening on 8th March and the fact that what happens in terms of social mixing outside school is just as important as what happens in the classroom in terms of lowering infection rates.

Support for events and cultural economy

Keeping infections low is the best way we can support our local economy. I know people will share cautious optimism following announcements this week that suggest the city's arts, culture and hospitality offer – may be accessible to residents again this year. It's welcome news that some events are already adapting to the new circumstances. Our city's much-loved Brighton Festival will go ahead, albeit in a different way, adapted to ensure safe, online and socially distanced events. Online events offer more options for accessibility which is a plus and helps keep infection rates down. Because the pandemic is still with us, the City will still face challenges that we are keen to acknowledge. Hopefully councillors will have seen plans to rapidly scale up our seafront services, for example, in response to the warm weather we've already experienced and numbers at the beach. We will continue to talk to partners such as the police and health services about how we can support the economy to reopen sustainably this year. We do want our local blue light services and NHS to stay on their feet through the pandemic and not become overwhelmed. Keeping infection rates low will absolutely be the key that unlocks the opportunity for events in the city once again.

Existing and continued support amid the pandemic

While planning for summer we do need to also stay focused on what support people need right now. Today the Chancellor has just made a budget announcement that we are pleased to see after lobbying. This includes an extension of the business rates holiday, and of continued furlough and some new grant schemes and reliefs for businesses. In the same breath I thought, changes, for example, to the self-employed income support scheme and other grants will sadly come too little, too late for many in the city, such as freelance and company directors, who have faced a huge hit. We will of course continue to assist where we can.

Work on night-time economy and APPG

Work to influence national strategy continues. We have been speaking up for the night-time economy, through giving evidence to parliament. Businesses that form the cornerstone of the City's nightlife have contributed their experiences over the past year. Many venues and suppliers have reported annual losses of between 40 and 70% to their businesses. The evidence we submitted to parliament asserts this identity and the importance of a settlement for the night-time economy – a major draw for visitors to our city and the businesses in it, affected by the pandemic.

Local recovery work updates

That leads me on to positive updates.

The City Council and Brilliant Brighton, our Business Improvement District have teamed up to make use of vacant premises within Brighton City centre as part of the recovery programme. The temporary project aims to utilise empty properties in Brighton's city centre, by offering short-term pop-up shop opportunities to those looking to host their own store, restaurant, cafe or deli, but don't want a long-term commitment. The project hopes to also engage local artists to dress windows and create eye-catching window displays in empty properties - not only to improve the appearance of unused units (and reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour). It will not only provide new uses for empty buildings, it will help people struggling to find a platform during the pandemic and revive city centre shopping areas ready to welcome the safe return of visitors. In the last year we have seen our need for good quality internet connections increase with children having to be home schooled during periods of lockdown, more people working from home and connecting with friends and relatives by video. Work is beginning this month by CityFibre on an £80m rollout of full fibre broadband throughout the city, beginning with Moulsecoomb & Bevendean ward. Working with our partners at the Greater Brighton Economic Board, we have been pushing for faster and better internet connection for a number of years and so this is a significant investment.

Green Recovery

We're also progressing work on a green recovery so we can build back better. The government's announcements of green bonds was welcome, but I also know we can and should be going much further. Locally work continues apace including through our budget setting process last week that allocated funding for new green spaces, for a warmer homes programme to also boost local jobs, work on Covid recovery and renewal and funding to help support the arts and cultural sector recovery plan, as well as more investment in our young people and the city's regeneration.

38 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

38.1 There were no Petitions, Written Questions or Deputations

39 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

39 (a) Petitions

39.1 There were none

39 (b) Written Questions

39.2 There were none

39 (c) Letters

39.3 Councillor Platts presented her letter regarding the Build Back Better campaign.

39.4 The Chair gave the following response:

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be an unprecedented shock to our lives, but we have seen an amazing collective response at the local level.

As major challenges to our wellbeing, our local communities, and economy continues, I agree that we must find ways to support the city to recover, whilst addressing the health, nature and climate crises together with a focus on local delivery. A green and fair recovery and meeting the city's 2030 net zero carbon target will be dependent on the city council leading, empowering and resourcing the city's recovery and renewal.

When it comes to Build Back Better, you can be assured that this is nothing less than the ambition of Greens. The Green Party called for a Green New Deal no less than 13 years ago, a public investment programme for green jobs and social welfare, and of course it was Caroline Lucas and Clive Lewis who have launched the Green New Deal Bill in Parliament. More locally, Green Councillors proposed that the city council here can, and should, demonstrate local leadership and back in 2019 we proposed a Green New Deal for our city – one that takes demands to a hyper local level, focusing on the opportunities to narrow the gaps in social inequality, create well paid, sustainable jobs in sectors that support the health and wellbeing of both people and planet.

As we've seen with the recent Green budget, this is something all of us councillors can seek to champion at a council level. This includes our recent proposal of millions of pounds of investment into warmer homes, for a programme to make energy efficient our thousands of council-owned housing stock, to both lower fuel bills, create employment and skills opportunities locally, and bring down the carbon emissions released from housing.

Later this month will be publishing the draft of our 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme which will sit alongside the recovery and renewal plans to support the city's transition to a carbon neutral city by 2030. This is of course explicitly linked to how we can and must create a better future – one cannot exist without the other. To be frank, the poorest bear the brunt of cuts and of climate chaos. Whether that's exposure to air pollution, cold, leaky housing, or the reality that when crisis hits – such as floods in the UK or elsewhere – those on low incomes are already held back from being able to escape its worst effects.

We have already made significant steps to place the city on a path to recovery. From the Arts & Culture Recovery Plan, agreed at this meeting in January and funded in our budget last week – to work on the downland estate plan. Of course, local authorities are by no means the only local actor delivery the city's recovery and transition to carbon neutral and to ensure a better future. We want to work with local people, community groups and the voluntary sector, the wider public sector, and our business community. By coming together as a range of public and private sector partners across the City to address the challenge that the city faces, we can get the city back on track.

Although government funding to deal with the crisis has been welcome, councils have seen huge new spending demands at the same time as seeing normal revenue streams reduced. The Government should consider how it can join up and simplify the funding that is already available to local government, how this can be focused on carbon emission reductions, and where it should be accelerated. Simply providing certainty around medium / long-term resourcing is of considerable importance in enabling councils to deliver a fair, green and healthy recovery. And there will be need for new funding, to support recovery with investment needed in low carbon infrastructure,

regeneration schemes that create jobs and in skills programmes to reverse the recession.

I am therefore happy to write to the Secretary of State, to demand support for a national Build Back Better plan through comprehensive national policy reform, and to work with other councils and the LGA to advance the aims of the campaign. I hope that we can get all three parties to join me in signing this letter.

The City Councils' unique insight into our local communities and circumstances, our service delivery and regulatory functions, and our convening power enables us to drive carbon emissions reductions and support recovery across our whole city in ways that can also deliver better public health, reduced inequalities, a healthier environment and thriving local economies. We know our city can thrive again, and through working together on recovery and renewal we can build a fairer and greener city.

39.5 **RESOLVED:** That the letter be noted.

39 (d) **Notices of Motion**

39.6 There were none.

40 COVID-19 RECOVERY & RENEWAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

40.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture which provided an update on the progress of the Covid-19 Recovery & Renewal Programme.

40.2 Councillor Platts asked if there was democratic oversight on Food, Vulnerable People and Welfare Reform & Financial Hardship working groups. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that all members of the working groups were officers and stakeholders, with democratic oversight coming from this Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee.

40.3 Councillor Platts noted that the Children & Young People working group were looking at a number of issues including the mental health of children (immediate issues and the longer term impact of the pandemic), disadvantaged families within the city and employment and skills, and asked what action was being taken. The Executive Director Families Children & Learning said that they were concerned about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged young people and their families and so were developing a city-wide Disadvantaged Strategy which would include educational disadvantage and would link in with the Early Help review. The operational side was to ensure that services were provided at an earlier stage, and the 0-5 age group was key to addressing disadvantage and would put the children and their families in a much better position going forward.

40.4 Councillor Yates referred to the Crime and Community Cohesion in the report and noted that the Government had allocated £606k to the City for 2021/22. The intention of the funding was that it would allow Local Authorities to commission services which were currently funded MHCLG, and asked why the report had not set out how the Council intended to spend that money. The Chair said that a report on this would be coming to

the TECC Committee. The Executive Director Housing Neighbourhoods & Communities said the Council were in discussions with the MHCLG on how that funding could be used and what their expectations were.

40.5 Councillor Clare referred to the Ways of Working group who had been looking at the health and well-being of staff, and asked if there was a way to accelerate the review of allowing more flexible working arrangement for staff, and asked if a report on this issue could come to a future meeting. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that this issue was being considered by the Ways of Working group, and would bring a report to the next meeting.

40.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee noted the progress update report.

41 **EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS UPDATE AND CITY EMPLOYMENT SKILLS (RECOVERY) PLAN 2021-2023**

41.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Families Children & Learning regarding the City Employment and Skills (Recovery) Plan 2021 – 2023.

41.2 Councillor Clare was pleased to note that the Council's bid to the DWP for the Youth Employment Hub had been successful. She asked if third sector providers could be involved in the recovery plan and noted that the number of youth employment was going down and asked if that was a trend. The Head of Skills and Employment said that she would welcome involving third sector groups and would discuss that further with Members and said that there had been a reduction in youth employment but it was too early to say if that was a trend or would change once lockdown was over.

41.3 Councillor Platts asked what funding had been secured and approximately how many people we were expecting to help, and how sustainable those jobs may be, and if those people would be paid a Living Wage. The Head of Skills and Employment said that there were a number of incentives which the Government had implemented such as the Kickstart scheme, and employers could top-up the salary if they wanted to pay a living wage. The funding which had been secured was from the DWP for the flexible support fund, and the de-carbonisation academy.

41.4 Councillor Miller suggested that there should be more focus on creating jobs within the IT sector, and attracting investors into the City, and for the Council to look at how it could create more jobs such as encouraging early retirement for Council employees to create vacancies. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that this was a short-term recovery plan and looking at current employment. There were skills which were needed for the Tech economy but that was not a direct need due to the impact of Covid. Item 43 on the agenda provided further information on the economy within the Greater Brighton Plan.

41.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee –

- (i) Approved the City Employment and Skills (Recovery) Plan 2021 –2023;
- (ii) Noted the general Employment and Skills update.

42 RECOVERY UPDATE: FOOD

- 42.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture which updated members on the work that was being done around provision of food during COVID-19, in terms of emergency provision, an update on the winter Covid-19 grant for families, and consideration of a longer-term strategic approach to food.
- 42.2 The Chair noted that there was an amendment from the Labour Group and asked Councillor Platts to propose the amendment.
- 42.3 Councillor Platts said that there was a food crisis with many families having to rely on foodbanks. The amendment sought to clarify the Council's policy on ensuring residents were fed, and the Council needed to decide how funds could be allocated to do that. Councillor Yates formally seconded the amendment.
- 42.4 Councillor Clare said that it was clear that more work needed to be done on a national as well as local level and therefore the Green Group would be supporting the amendment.
- 42.5 Councillor Miller thanked everyone who was working with and donating to the foodbanks. However, he would not be supporting the amendment as it was the Conservative Group's view that the City's MPs should be lobbying the Government rather than the Chief Executive.
- 42.6 Councillor Platts asked what the Council's overall strategy would be to address the issues, and whether things like rent-free premises could be provided for foodbanks or to provide allotments so residents could grow their own food etc. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that In order to continue to drive the food agenda, the City Council has recently appointed a new Food Policy Officer and they provide strategic leadership on food policy and food economy matters within the Council.
- 42.7 The Sub-Committee voted on the amendment and it was agreed. Councillor Miller abstained.

42.8 RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee –

- (i) Noted the work being done across the city around the emergency food response during the Covid19 pandemic, and the consideration of the implications surrounding the provision of emergency food in the longer term;
- (ii) Agreed that the Food Policy Officer continued to work with Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and the wider emergency food network on developing stronger analysis of options for moving to a more sustainable emergency food network, which builds upon the initial analysis outlined in paras 3.7 to 3.28 of this report;
- (iii) Agreed that the Food Policy Officer commenced the longer-term strategic food policy work outlined in paragraphs 3.49 to 3.55 of the report in partnership with city partners, the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and the Greater Brighton Economic Board;

- (iv) Agreed that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and to the Chair of the Government's National Food Strategy (with the City's three MPs and the Local Government Association copied in), urging for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated into the government's National Food Strategy, and into law.

43 RECOVERY UPDATE: ECONOMY

- 43.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture which updated members on some key indicators as to how the city's economy is being affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic, as well as some of the activities that were happening to better understand that impact and to work towards a sustainable recovery of the city's (and city region's) economy.
- 43.2 Councillor Clare noted that the City had an above average number of both people who were home working and who had been furloughed and asked if that could impact on how the City could recover. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that furloughing staff had been helpful for the hospitality sector and had secured jobs although it may some time for the visitor economy to recover, and the City had a high number of residents who were self-employed or were sole traders which could have increased the number who were working from home.
- 43.4 Councillor Yates noted that the report made no mention of getting shops back into use. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that the Council were working with Brilliant Brighton to look at using empty shops and some suggestions were to allow short term pop-up shops, or to engage local artists to show case their work in shop window displays. More information on that would be provided in future meetings.
- 43.5 Councillor Miller said that there were 144 grant applications still to be decided and asked when that would be done, and noted that the Government had recently announced an further one-off grant scheme which would pay an additional amount of between £4k to £9k to businesses and asked when that would be paid. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that applications were being processed as quickly as possible and there were currently 96 being considered but that number did change on a daily basis, and with regard to the extra grants it was hoped that they would allocated in the next couple of weeks.
- 43.6 Councillor Platts asked whether as part of the ongoing strategy, officers were looking at shared working space. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that people were wanting to commute less but still wanted to meet colleagues in person and so that was something which would be looked going forward.
- 43.7 RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee –
- (i) Noted the latest position with regards to the city's economy and the impact of the pandemic;
 - (ii) Noted the contents of the Greater Brighton Sustainable Recovery Plan (appendix 1), and the update on delivery of that plan (Appendix 2).

44 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

44.1 There were no Part Two items.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

Chair

Signed

Dated this

day of

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES (RECOVERY) SUB-COMMITTEE

2.00pm 29 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mac Cafferty (Chair) Platts (Opposition Spokesperson), Miller (Group Spokesperson), Allcock and Clare

PART ONE

45 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

45.1 Councillor Allcock was substituting for Councillor Yates

(b) Declarations of Interests

45.2 Councillor Platts declared that she was Co Event Director for the East Brighton Park Run and was in a position of control and general management for the event, which was non-profit making, and had been given dispensation to vote and speak. Councillor Platts declared that she was a member of Freedom Leisure but was not involved in the management and so had been advised that she did not need dispensation to speak or vote.

Councillor Allcock declared that he was a member of Freedom Leisure but was not involved in the management of that organisation.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

45.3 That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in part two of the agenda.

46 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

46.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

We have critical reports to discuss today; on continued support for our businesses, including our leisure facilities, but also on the planning already in place to deal with the impact of changing coronavirus restrictions that will no doubt see more people come to our city. All reports today assert of course that we are in no way out of the woods when

it comes to the pandemic and I know many will have shared same concerns looking at the current situation in Europe where just as we are proposing opening up, many countries are again going in to lockdown. Of course, today restrictions have changed again and we are still urging people to be safe and continue safe social distancing to keep infections low.

We are approaching the roadmap with cautious optimism. By definition every stage of the government's plan introduces more social mixing and that in turn increases risk. It's not only public health workers, but event organisers and our brilliant local businesses who also need to know the virus is being well controlled. That includes our sports facilities who have been forced to close their doors, despite the value they bring to all of us, and reports today show we are committed to supporting them. We are proposing around £1 million of additional financial support for our leisure centres to secure their re-opening and operation over the next three years.

The pandemic has now affected trade for a year for many of our businesses. Today we will once again support the continued roll-out of grants. Once again, we are restrained by government guidance on the types of organisations that will be eligible for grant funding. While we remain hopeful that the city can re-open safely, we are focused on being as prepared as possible to both welcome back visitors and keep people safe. Plans today include proposals to create a new multi-agency group with oversight of this, that will include police and emergency services, the council's seafront and parks teams, highways, CityClean and environmental health among others. They will meet weekly to plan, respond to issues and share intelligence and expertise.

We are ramping up training for businesses to support them with opening, jet washing our busiest streets clean, commencing additional waste collection services along our busy seafront, recruiting a full lifeguard service and looking at how we can increase the number of public toilets available. We will also strengthen action on illegal parking, anti-social behaviour and littering.

We're clear that our city has so much to offer as a place to live, work and visit and in collaboration with our partners and business community it would be fair to say there is cautious optimism about what the next few months may hold.

We are closely monitoring the situation with Covid-19 cases and our excellent public health colleagues are watching the data like a hawk. We will not fail to act in the best interests of our city and to protect people from infection. I do repeat the 'cautious' – part of cautious optimism – we must continue to stay safe and keep infections low, even as we look forward to the future.

47 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

47.1 There was no Public Involvement.

48 COVID-19 ROAD MAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN: MANAGING THE CITY SAFELY AND OUTDOOR EVENTS PROGRAMME 2021

48.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture which outlined the spring and summer plans and multi-agency approach

which aimed to ensure that Brighton & Hove was prepared and ready to welcome back visitors and keep residents safe as lockdown restrictions were eased in accordance with the government's Spring 2021 road map out of lockdown.

- 48.2 Councillor Platts asked what steps would be taken to ensure the programmes were held safely. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that there would be Covid-safe measures for each event, and officers would be checking that the processes in place were being adhered to and were compliant with the latest guidance in place at that time.
- 48.3 Councillor Platts asked if Track and Trace systems were being used. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that there wasn't one system which would be appropriate for all events and would differ depending on whether it was a sporting event where social distancing could be enforced or whether it was a fringe event where track and trace could be used.
- 48.4 Councillor Allcock was pleased to see the extensive list of events and asked how they would all be monitored. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that in the run up to the events the Safety Advisory Group would be reviewing the programme to ensure that the appropriate safety measures had been considered, but weekly meetings were being held to look at how events had been held and whether there any points which could be considered for the next events being held.
- 48.5 Councillor Miller said that with the expected number of people visiting the City there was a need for additional toilets and it would be useful to have hand gel available. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that additional toilets would be provided for the seafront. With regard to hand gel, officers would be looking to see whether more PPE such as masks and hand gel was needed as the Summer progressed.
- 48.6 Councillor Miller noted that it was expected that there would be fewer foreign visitors but asked whether it was likely that due to staycations there would be an overall increase in numbers. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that it was expected that there would be more people both staying and visiting the City for the day. The high number of visitors would put additional pressure on cleaning and ensuring the City was kept safe, and so officers were looking at providing more advice for them and had been liaising with groups such as rail companies to remind people not to litter the beach etc.
- 48.7 Councillor Clare said that feedback on what worked and didn't work was important and asked how the Council were engaging on this with multi-agency groups. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that the Council were working with groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Voluntary Groups etc and there was also a dedicated email address for groups to provide feedback to the Council.
- 48.8 RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee –
- (i) Noted the multi-agency approach that will operate from the beginning of April until the end of September 2021 to co-ordinate operations with the aim of safely and coherently managing city as lockdown restrictions are eased;

- (ii) Agreed that £1.01M of Contain Outbreak Management Funds was allocated to the Managing the City Safely City Co-ordination Group to support the work that aims to ensure that the city is prepared and can manage the easing of lockdown restrictions as outlined in Appendix 2 and paragraphs 3.5 to 3.17;
- (iii) Agreed that the revised events programme listed in Appendix 1 of this report should take place in accordance with the government's road map and associated guidance, following the approach outlined in paragraphs 3.26 to 3.38;
- (iv) Noted that final permission for events will take place for each event once the relevant step in the government's road map for coming out of lockdown has been reached, following discussion with event organisers and the Safety Advisory Group, the multi-agency group that oversee events in the city.

49 COVID 19 ARG GRANTS FOR BUSINESS UPDATE

- 49.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture which provided an update on the Covid 19 Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) for Business allocated to the council in relation to the second and third national lockdowns and the work that has taken place to administer the funds under the delegated powers of the Executive Director for Economy Environment and Culture which were approved by a Policy & Resources (Urgency) Sub- Committee on the 13 November 2020 and 4 February 2021.
- 49.2 The Chair noted that there was an amendment from the Labour Group and asked Councillor Platts to propose it.
- 49.3 Councillor Platts said that she was aware that some businesses had missed out on receiving grants, particularly those that had bought businesses during lockdown and so weren't listed at Business Rate payers, and so the amendment sought to include 'recognised representatives of the business community' in the consultation for the issuing of grants. Councillor Allcock seconded the proposed amendment.
- 49.4 Councillor Clare asked what engagement had taken place with business leaders so far, and noted that some businesses had said that the allocation of grants was too slow and was concerned that if the Labour Group amendment was agreed that involving more groups in the consultation would slow the process further. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that during the lockdowns the Council had worked with business leaders which included the Economic Partnership, the Federation of Small Businesses, the University and the Voluntary Sector and having made those connections the Council were in open dialogue with them and so got instant feedback on how things were working. Any steps with engaging further with representatives of the business community would delay the allocation of grants and added that the Council did have limited discretion of how money was awarded. The Assistant Director City Development and Regeneration added that the schemes remained much the same and the grants would go to similar businesses.
- 49.5 Councillor Platts said that if businesses had changed hands during the pandemic then they couldn't access the grants and so the Council should check with businesses if the

process was still fair. In response to a question from the Chair, she said that the number of businesses which had changed hands was low and was probably less than six, and so was unlikely to cause a huge delay. The Assistant Director City Development and Regeneration said he would ask about businesses who may have missed out on the grants and see what could be done to support them.

49.6 Councillor Miller noted that there was a delay in some grants being paid and asked why that was, and referred to paragraph 3.32 of the report and asked why there were differing amounts. The Chair noted that there had been many changes to the grant system, with at least eight big changes and thirteen smaller changes and said that those who had been processing the grants were doing a brilliant job and were working as quickly as possible to process all the grants. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that payments for grants for the current lockdown were being made now and should all be completed by the end of March 2021. With regard to paragraph 3.32 the differences were due to different rateable values of businesses.

49.7 The Sub-Committee voted on the amendment and it was agreed.

49.8 RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee –

- (i) Noted the progress being made to administer the £8.401m Additional restrictions grants, under delegated powers, relating to period from 5 November 2020 to 31 March 2021;
- (ii) Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture, in consultation with the Acting Chief Finance Officer and recognised representatives of the business community, to determine the criteria and agree processes for issuing the Additional Restrictions Grants using the top-up that government will issue in April, taking account of the need to issue the grants as quickly as possible to assist with reopening of businesses.

50 SPORTS FACILITIES CONTRACT EXTENSION - FREEDOM LEISURE

50.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture regarding the contracts with Wealden Leisure Ltd trading as Freedom Leisure manage the council's sports facilities.

50.2 Councillor Allcock asked if the opening of the swimming pools would be advertised and was advised that it would, and the Council's Communications Teams would be working with Freedom Leisure.

50.3 Councillor Allcock asked if the Council would be looking to bring the service in-house once the contract expired. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture confirmed that all options would be considered.

50.4 Councillor Miller asked how much Freedom Leisure would receive from the recovery fund, and how the support the Council gave to them compared to other similar Local Authorities. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that they would receive £630k, and the support which the Council gave them was good and there was a dedicated officer support to manage the contract.

50.5 RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee –

- (i) Noted the significant financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic upon Freedom Leisure as the operator of the council's Sports Facilities and the financial support already provided;
- (ii) Noted that a high proportion of the management fee which was waived during the period 1 July 2020 to March 2021 was reclaimed by the council as lost income from central government;
- (iii) Noted that the successful application to the National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRFF) for a grant which will be passed on to Freedom Leisure as required by the associated terms and conditions in respect of business relief and recovery;
- (iv) Agreed that £0.363m of Contain Outbreak Management Funds be allocated to Freedom Leisure;
- (v) Agreed that the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture and Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law be granted delegated authority to settle the terms of the contract variations and take any steps necessary to implement the recommendations above.

Part Two Summary**51 SPORTS FACILITIES CONTRACT EXTENSION - FREEDOM LEISURE - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3**

RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved.

52 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

52.1 RESOLVED: That the items listed in Part Two of the agenda and decisions thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 15.35pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Subject: | Covid-19 Recovery & Renewal Programme Update | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 28 April 2021 | | |
| Report of: | Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Julie Nichols, Corporate Portfolio Lead | Tel: 01273 291656 |
| | Email: | julie.nichols@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the progress of the Covid-19 Recovery & Renewal Programme, following a previous update to the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-committee on 3 March 2021.
- 1.2 It should be noted that the report provides an update on progress to early/mid April and given the fast moving nature of the pandemic, aspects of the report may have been superseded by events by the date of the committee meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee notes this progress update report.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Recovery & Renewal Programme was established in May 2020 to help prepare and steer the council and city through the transition from emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic towards recovery. The programme seeks opportunities for the city to emerge from the pandemic as fairer, greener and healthier.
- 3.2 Circumstances with regard to the pandemic have shifted throughout this period. Whilst the focus on recovery is being maintained, it is being managed alongside emergency response to the pandemic, throughout the lockdowns, restart of the city as we move out of the most recent lockdown and business as usual/statutory responsibilities. Since the initiation of the Recovery & Renewal programme, its working groups have been working on response, restart and recovery. In recognition of the most recent escalation in Covid-19 cases and the third lockdown, the Food, Vulnerable People and Welfare Reform & Financial Hardship working groups have focused solely upon emergency response. All other working groups have continued to balance recovery and response but the Recovery & Renewal programme reduced its requirements on them in terms of reporting and meetings during January to March. The programme's Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and Programme Manager maintained contact with the

working group leads during this time to keep track of progress and pick up on any issues.

- 3.3 As a matter of good practice, the scope of the programme was reviewed in March 2021 based upon experience to date and to ensure it remained fit for purpose. The scope has been slightly revised in order to refocus on working groups that are cross-cutting and require corporate oversight in the context of recovery, and are not just business as usual for the services involved. They have been reframed into those pertaining to People, Place and Resources to emphasise the need to continually balance these key aspects of recovery (see Appendix 1). Working group highlight reporting and meetings resumed from 1 April 2021.

| People | Place | Resources |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Customers Children & Young People Food Policy Vulnerable People | Employment & Skills Events & Economy Homelessness & Housing | Supporting Members Ways of Working |

- 3.4 Recovery of each council directorate and its services remains outside the scope of the programme. Each directorate has, however, devised its own roadmap out of lockdown and to restart the city, following the published roadmap from central government. These roadmaps are reviewed fortnightly by both the Directorate Management Teams and the Executive Leadership Team to ensure they adapt as circumstances change and significant issues are planned for, and responded to, corporately.

- 3.5 The following items provide updates on each of the Recovery & Renewal working groups:

3.5.1 Customers

Aim of working group

- Develop and deliver the Customer Experience Strategy, which includes the Customer Promise and Customer Experience Vision.
- Monitor progress in relation to the delivery of the Customer Experience Strategy.
- Promote best practice in delivering services in a fair and inclusive way.
- Consider and respond to the impact on customers of the changed customer service delivery of the council due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Key recent activities

- Customer Experience survey updated in March to include specific questions on Covid and annual mail out sent to customers.
- Accessibility Review: Preferred medium-term option for face to face agreed by the Customer Experience Steering Group (CESG) in April. This was also the preferred option for the Customer Experience Ambassadors (CEAs).
- Accessibility Review: Preferred short-term option for telephone agreed by the CESG in April.
- Accessibility Review: Wave story launched in April to seek feedback from wider staff groups to capture accessibility barriers.

Key forthcoming activities

- Collate and circulate customer survey results to services in May.
- Take account of results from Covid specific questions within the survey into the Accessibility Review implementation (May to August 2021).
- Refine future options for telephone support in consultation with the CESG and CEAs, and seek agreement from the Corporate Modernisation Delivery Board in June.
- Work with the Communications Team in May to inform customers that our offer will go live in September, in order to manage customer expectations.

3.5.2 Children & Young People

Aim of working group

- Provide strategic leadership to the recovery and renewal work for children and young people services in the city.
- Focus on Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME), disadvantaged, education and early years, Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND), emotional wellbeing and mental health, safeguarding and youth.
- Be a point of escalation for the task and finish groups linked to the working group.
- Represent children and young people's matters in within the Recovery & Renewal programme.
- Link into partnerships and commissioning groups in the city.
- Highlight and mitigate risks.
- Consider equalities impacts of decisions made.

Key recent activities

- Themed discussions taken place around mental health, employment and skills, and disadvantage.
- The working group has continued to meet and cover immediate response needs as well as longer term recovery and renewal discussions.

Key forthcoming activities

- Review the lessons learnt exercise from 2020.
- Consider further themed discussions at future working group meetings.

3.5.3 Food Policy

Aim of working group

Provide an all-age citywide response to issues relating to food arising from the Covid-19 crisis emergency phase, through recovery and in readiness and response to local outbreaks/other waves.

Key recent activities

- Interim Food Policy Co-ordinator in post and Food Policy Co-ordinator recruited.
- Local Outbreak Funding allocated to support Children's Centres Food Bank provision, Impact Initiatives to help with food access for elderly and vulnerable people, Food Partnership to continue to support the Emergency Food Network and eight pilot 'affordable food schemes'.

- Demand on Local Discretionary Social Fund and Emergency Food providers is increasing from pre-December levels but not as high as same period in 2020.
- At the Policy & Resources Committee on 3 March, it was agreed that the Food Policy Co-ordinator continue to work with the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and wider emergency food network on developing stronger analysis of options for moving to a more sustainable emergency food network. The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership is undertaking research on the emergency food sector, new affordable food schemes and cooked meal providers. The annual food bank survey is expected to conclude in late July. Therefore, a more in-depth report about findings from this will be available in August.

Initial research (from discussions with eight providers) so far suggests that each organisation has different issues and needs and there is not a 'once size fits all' approach. Findings so far:

Consideration of funding or paying all volunteers:

- Most volunteers do not claim expenses (even if they are entitled to) as they want their volunteer work to contribute to the cause. Therefore, unless the Emergency Food Network survey states differently, it is not anticipated that this is a requested option.

Consideration of funding or paying key co-ordinating posts/roles within the council, community development organisations or within the organisations themselves:

- Each organisation had a different opinion on whether they need help at all and who they would accept help from.
- Most projects stated that they need more funding or help with fundraising. Therefore, if a post was created that could help with fundraising, this could help leverage in more capacity for the sector.
- At Craven Vale, where council officers helped with contacting beneficiaries to help them 'move on', this was seen as a successful partnership.

What do the Emergency food projects need?

- Storage, food processing space and access to kitchens are common requests. This is because community halls and churches want to open back to the community in April and May 2021. Spaces need to be close to the localities served, otherwise they do not meet the need. Otherwise, funding to be able to pay for the rent or waived rents if council owned properties, would also help the sector.
- Funding is needed across the sector. The Winter Grant Funding had to be spent by the end of March. Some food banks have only a few weeks' funding left and are expecting/hoping for a new fund to be made available because so many were last year.
- Where given, food banks stated that receiving the Councillor area pots of money had been very helpful.
- Clarification being sought on any implications for grant funding to churches.

How do we move towards a more sustainable emergency food system, which has fair and inclusive access?

- Reducing the amount of people who need emergency food is the main priority. A letter has been drafted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and to the Chair of the Government's National Food Strategy (copied to the city's three Members of Parliament and the Local

Government Association) by the Chief Executive urging for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated into the government's National Food Strategy and into law.

- Most food banks are supporting individuals and families who have long term need for food support (rather than just emergency). Moving people on to 'affordable food schemes' where they pay a small subscription (making the project more financially sustainable) is the most viable, sustainable option for the sector. However, the new affordable food schemes are at capacity. Therefore, looking into how existing emergency food providers can transition across to this model, helping increase capacity and setting up new schemes is a priority. The council has funded Brighton & Hove Food Partnership to work with eight affordable food schemes for the next six months through the Local Outbreak Funding.
- The idea of a secure shared referral system/database is of interest amongst the food banks consulted (who accept referrals). This would decide allocation on postcode, avoid duplication and provide knowledge about what other financial support the client had received.

In term of emergency food, the following data gives an indication of provision for one week in March 2021:

Projects

- 29 emergency food (parcel) projects are included in this data. Five also provide meals (either themselves or through working with a meal project).
- Seven affordable food projects.
- Eight projects providing free meals (either delivered or collected).
- The data does not include information from projects primarily supporting homeless people.
- Venues, storage and space are referenced as challenges.

Numbers supported with food parcels

- 1,825 households. This is at least 2,400 adults and 900 children.
- 295 of these households also get a meal from the emergency food provider.

Numbers supported affordable food projects

- 323 households. This is at least 500 adults and 285 children.

Numbers support with meals

- 1,225 people. This is at least 1,110 adults and 115 children.
- Of these, 660 are delivered.

Volunteers

- 445 people.

Key forthcoming activities

- Food Policy Co-ordinator starts in role on 26 April.
- Survey/evaluation of Emergency Food providers, community meal delivery schemes and affordable food pilots over the next few months until July 2021 to feed into a report regarding a more sustainable Emergency Food response going forward.
- Brighton & Hove Food Partnership will be phasing down the food processing hub at Moulsecoomb Hall.

- Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and the Trust for Developing Communities are putting on 'Issues to consider when opening back up to community' training for Emergency Food providers as we move out of lockdown.
- Exploring provision of 'Emergency on the day parcels' from June.
- The Food Policy Coordinator will continue to work with Brighton & Hove Food Partnership to develop options for a more sustainable emergency food network.

3.5.4 Vulnerable People

Aim of working group

Work collaboratively across the public and voluntary sector to reduce the spread and limit the morbidity and mortality from the COVID-19 pandemic in Brighton & Hove and ensure the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people. This working group has an assurance role.

Key recent activities

- **Community Hub:**
 - Supporting those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable or recently added to the Shielded Patients List in terms of providing information of what support is available from the council and its commissioned Community & Voluntary Sector (CVS) providers.
 - Now fully recruited and staff are working in partnership to develop the local Test and Trace service. This is complemented by the Community Hub staff's knowledge of the services available to meet need and support with self-isolation requirements, eg. self-isolation payments.
- **Mental Health:**
 - All mental health services continue to operate, provided mainly by video and telephone calls, and face to face only provided where clinically appropriate.
 - Reprinted mental health and crisis cards, Bereavement cards and Wellbeing Booklet (25 pages) distributed out via food banks.
 - Recruited a Mental Health and Debt Mental Health Co-ordinator for improving integration of mental health and financial support services.
- **Communications:**
 - A Stay at Home" campaign shared in public spaces across the city, in printed adverts, local media, through radio and digital music player advertisements, and targeted social media. The message is for everyone but shared through channels that reach our digitally excluded residents.
 - A weekly public health statement to share simple details on cases, vaccinations, testing and key messages or advice is published on the council's website, and shared with local media, on social media, with staff and through networks. Translations also shared in Arabic, Bengali, Farsi, Gujarati, Polish and simplified Chinese.
- **Volunteering**
 - Hundreds of volunteers recruited and trained for all vaccination sites. Community Works linking to national discussions around development of a 'Volunteering Passport' to enable sharing of volunteers across organisations and the impact of 'Vaccination Passports' on volunteering.
 - A meeting of the City Volunteering Partnership considered future stress points for volunteering, including support for residents nervous about re-

engaging and ensuring access to volunteering for all, including young people and those in poverty.

- **Equalities & Access:**
 - The workstream continues to meet with all groups to capture intelligence. Has been prioritising vaccination; BAME, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ), Faith, Gypsy Roma Travellers, young adults and the geographical areas of Queen's Park, St Peter's North Laine and Brunswick & Adelaide. Engagement work carried out with all of these groups.

Key forthcoming activities

- **Community Hub:**
 - A review will commence in April to look at how the activities align with business as usual and directorate redesigns.
- **Mental Health:**
 - Re-procurement within the Community Roots contract and recruitment of a new Mental Health Specialist.
 - Progressing work on having Specialist Mental Health Support Workers within Primary Care (General Practitioner) practices to increase integration between services.
 - Plan to refresh the Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- **Communications:**
 - Continue to provide updates on guidance and easing of restrictions (Government Road Map), as well as supporting the uptake of vaccines and testing. Shared across a variety of channels including print advertisements, radio, bus stop advertisements, social media, digital music channels (eg. Spotify and Alexa) and through local media.
- **Volunteering:**
 - Continued multi-agency collaboration to ensure sufficient volunteer support for the vaccination and testing programme.
 - Explore potential for targeted work focused on enabling young people and people living in poverty to volunteer.
- **Equalities & Access:**
 - Over the next two months, predominantly continue to work on the vaccination programme and engaging with groups where take up is low.

3.5.5 Employment & Skills

Aim of working group

To come together to discuss matters relating to economy, skills and employment that cut across the Recovery & Renewal programme.

Key recent activities

- The City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP), approved by the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-committee on 3 March, has since been designed and published on the council's website.
- The Adult and Learning Skills Partnership met on 31 March to discuss the implementation of the Plan. Further work to develop the high level action plan with Members and stakeholders is being planned. Presentations delivered by the Chief Executive Officer of CXK (the prime contractor of the National Careers Service (NCS) in the city). Followed by discussion on the take up of

the service and opportunities for further engagement locally to ensure the city is fully benefiting from the funding for this service.

- The Career Leader Network, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Network, Work & Learning Network and Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Networks have met.
- Facilitated a discussion with secondary heads on the role of Career Leaders in school in partnership with the Enterprise Adviser Network to provide contextual information regarding the Careers Strategy, educational and policy reforms.
- Ongoing development work with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) to progress the plans to open the Youth Employment Hub. The contract with the DWP for the Hub is due to start on 1 May.
- Commenced discussions with post-16 providers regarding the implementation of 'T' Levels through the 16-19 Standards & Curriculum Group.
- Adult Education: Procured two further providers of adult learning courses for this academic year. The development of a curriculum plan for 2021/22 is being designed to support those furthest away from the labour market, and to support new and transferable skills for those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. This area is a current priority. The curriculum plan will align with key objectives set out in the CESP.

Key forthcoming activities

- Further engagement with NCS who wish to pursue opportunities in the city. Continue to engage a wide range of partners on the CESP.
- Attend the Work & Learning Network to discuss the CESP and further develop the action plan in relation to residents in supported and temporary accommodation.
- Launch the virtual Youth Employment Hub and continue planning for the opening of the physical Hub in Montague House.
- Prepare for the SEND Young People Employability Network to focus on actions which will support young people with a disability into volunteering or work.
- Progress discussions with post-16 providers with regard to the implementation of 'T' Levels.
- Commence collation of projects and work funded by external funding sources that may be at risk when European Union funding ends.
- Publish the council's Adult & Community Learning offer for 2021/22.

3.5.6 Events & Economy

Aim of working group

- Understand and quantify the impact of the spread of Covid-19 on the city's events, culture programme and visitor numbers, which leads to a wider impact on the city's economy.
- Align the city's businesses and event organisations around a common set of messages and actions, minimising (where possible) the impact upon the city, in accordance with Public Health England (PHE) guidance.
- Ensure government and council support gets to as many organisations as possible so that key sectors in our economy are able to survive, retain employment and recover.

Key recent activities

- **Covid Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) funding:**
 - Allocation will be based upon the number of businesses rather than population, as has been the calculation in the past.
 - All schemes appear to be closing by 30 June.
 - A paper agreed by a special meeting of the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-committee on 29 March recommended there be delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture with regards to ARG funding.
 - The application progress from businesses will include supplementary questions which will be required on the portal.
 - Business Restart Grant conversation initiated but there are complications arising from timing and guidance.
- **Retail:**
 - Business Improvement District (BID) are keen for a further training session on how to merchandise.
 - The Contain Outbreak Management Fund includes options on cleaning and preparing the city ahead of reopening, which has been well received.
- **Tourism & Events:**
 - The sector is planning for a busy summer with domestic visitors.
 - There are some concerns over the end of the furlough scheme.
 - The Destination Experience Group are meeting to discuss a two year recovery plan.
 - A Managing the City Safely report was presented to the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-committee, including reports on Restart Grants and the opening of leisure centres.
- **Containment Funds:**
 - A City Co-ordination Group will be meeting weekly to manage this spend to protect the city's residents and visitors.
- **Communities Fund:**
 - The Communities Fund Programme has gone live with updates planned for the council's website, along with press releases.

Key forthcoming activities

- Continue Business Restart Grant conversations as guidance becomes clearer.
- Add messaging regarding ventilation to communication plans.
- Explore using European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for Business Starter Packs.
- Discuss voluntary donations to support local community groups.

3.5.7 Homelessness & Housing

Aim of working group

- Covid Response amongst the homeless and rough sleeping population.
- Prevention and management of cases and outbreaks in homelessness and rough sleeping settings.
- Enabling individuals accommodated in emergency accommodation during the Covid Response ('Everyone In') to move on from rough sleeping into sustainable accommodation.
- Achieve a sustainable reduction in rough sleeping.

- Collaboration between housing, finance, planning, development, health protection, social care and local stakeholders and partners, in the development of submissions for the funding included in the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).
- Delivery of both MHCLG Programmes - Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) and RSAP.

Key recent activities

- Housing Committee and Policy & Resources Committee received an update on the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, including progress with move on arrangements, and agreed extension and acquisitions approval for accommodation for verified rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping that we continue to accommodate and support after 31 March 2021.
- Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI4) funding proposal submitted. Outcome to be announced.
- Housing Committee agreed to a route map for the council to continue an offer of accommodation for verified rough sleepers (where this is within local authority powers) while ceasing the offer of accommodation for those at risk of rough sleeping made for the duration of the pandemic by the end of restrictions by 21 June 2021. This is aligned to return of our usual customer facing homeless prevention and housing options services for those at risk of rough sleeping.
- Progress on delivery against Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding for Housing First Home Purchase properties continues to be reported to the Housing Committee and Homeless Reduction Board. We are on target to meet thirty Housing First homes to be acquired.
- Progress on reducing rough sleeping continues to be reported to the Housing Committee and Member-led Homeless Reduction Board.
- The Lead Member and officers attended Eastbourne Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss 'homeless placements into Eastbourne by Brighton & Hove City Council'. Out of borough placements continue to reduce, at this time, in line with more accommodation becoming available in Brighton & Hove.
- Fortnightly meetings with advisers from MHCLG.
- Updated the Equalities Impact Assessment based upon feedback from Voluntary Sector partner representatives.
- Fortnightly Homelessness & Housing Working Group meetings held.

Key forthcoming activities

- Identify the eligible cohort for the 'Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme' (RSAP) and undertake needs assessments of all individuals accessing RSAP homes.
- Submit a proposal bid for capital funding to deliver homes via the RSAP.
- Develop a Move-on Plan for those we continue to accommodate in emergency accommodation under the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to ensure we meet move on targets to more sustainable accommodation by October 2021.
- Plan return of our usual customer facing homeless prevention and housing options services for those at risk of rough sleeping to support ceasing the offer of accommodation to those at risk of rough sleeping before 21 June 2021.

- Submit second cycle of RSAP bid proposal based on collaboration with Registered Providers of social housing in July.
- Meet with Register Providers (via Voluntary Community Sector link) and Homes England about the bid before submission on 29 April.

3.5.8 Supporting Members

Aim of working group

Explore with Members the issues they face day to day, and their short and longer term development needs/career aspirations, in order to formulate a training and development plan including:

- Engagement with communities and residents.
- Relationship between Members and officers.
- Ways of working.
- Training and development

Key recent activities

- Working group mandate drafted and shared with the Corporate Modernisation Delivery Board, Executive Leadership Team Covid-19 Gold Recovery Co-ordination Group, Week Ahead meeting and Opposition Leaders.
- Member Development Working Group being arranged to share the mandate and gather initial views.
- Supporting Members officer working group being arranged to plan and oversee the work at officer level, and ensure links with the Ways of Working group.
- Research initiated into Local Government Association support and resources.

Key forthcoming activities

- Further research including into approaches within other local authorities.
- Engage with other Recovery & Renewal working groups.
- Engage with Democratic Services to understand existing plans for Member development.
- Build in feedback from the Local Government Association review.
- Hold Member Development Working Group.
- Hold Supporting Members Officer working group.
- Present initial thoughts to the Leader's Group.
- Plan for engagement with a diverse selection of Members, including focus group(s).

3.5.9 Ways of Working

Aim of working group

- Scope future ways of working for the council through engagement with services and staff. From this, develop a vision for the council that will inform Our People Promise, Accommodation and Digital Strategies.
- Consolidate emerging workplace needs and deliver a programme and model for a different return to the workplace in 2021/22, taking account of changing service delivery models and working practices.

Key recent activities

- Engagement Plan developed.
- Executive Leadership Team awayday held in January to start the discussion on Future Ways of Working (FWOW).
- FWOW email inbox created to enable staff to provide feedback to the project.
- Focus groups have been designed for staff and manager engagement.
- Focus group facilitators and note takers identified.
- Facilitator toolkit shared with the facilitators.
- Focus group pilot session carried out and session reviewed as per the feedback.
- Corporate communications issued to the organisation inviting staff to be part of the engagement exercise.
- Dates for the focus groups have gone live on the Learning & Development Gateway and staff are starting to book onto the sessions.

Key forthcoming activities

- Focus groups to be run from April to June inclusive.
- Collate feedback from the focus groups.
- Continue to collate feedback that is received via the FWOW email inbox.
- Communications will go out to the Leadership Network with an engagement toolkit to use with frontline staff/staff without IT access.
- Programme governance structure to be defined.
- Refresh the Human Resources offer for remote/hybrid working.
- Plan the induction for the expansion of office space.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 As the democratic body of the city, the council has a role in leading the governance and delivery of the recovery phase of the pandemic. The consequences of this public health crisis force the city to respond in ways that are different from what has been considered normal. The recovery programme is designed to ensure that the city is able to respond in an agile way as it transitions through different phases of the pandemic and moves in and out of response.
- 4.2 The pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge for Brighton & Hove and a major shock to the city's economy and communities. It also presents the city with an opportunity to shape its future. The recovery programme is designed to provide the governance structure for initiating and organising a series of coordinated, multi-agency actions during the recovery stage(s) following the pandemic affecting the communities and/or environment of Brighton & Hove. Those leading Recovery & Renewal are working closely with colleagues supporting outbreak control and emergency response to ensure approaches are co-ordinated.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The programme is engaging with the city's partnerships and governing bodies, and the Community & Voluntary Sector (CVS) as part of the recovery process. The city's partnerships were consulted as part of the programme's initiation via a scenario planning exercise where they were asked to consider the implications of the pandemic on their sectors and a response. The CVS and Clinical Commissioning Group are represented on the Covid-19 Recovery & Renewal

Group, where the leads of each working group share progress in order to identify issues, links and dependencies, and cross-cutting areas of work. Each working group has also been reviewed to determine whether it has appropriate CVS representation. The working groups will undertake engagement and consultations specific to their theme, as appropriate.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Covid-19 pandemic and the council's response to it have been fast paced, agile and in partnership with others, and this ethos is being carried forward into recovery. The programme will plan ahead as far as it is able, adapt in line with outbreak control, emergency response and the need to restart the city, and each working group will review its approach as circumstances change. The organisational capacity required to continually respond to the crisis, restart the city and begin recovery from it, and manage business as usual and statutory responsibilities cannot be under-estimated. Officers remain committed to delivering for the city, and the council and its staff, and will continue to update Members as the programme progresses.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The governance structure of the Recovery & Renewal Programme is provided for within the council's existing resources. Except where specific delegations have been approved by committee, actions or recommendations arising from the programme that have financial implications are reported through the council's recognised governance and decision-making routes, normally Policy & Resources Committee, or its Recovery Sub-Committee, and in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Finance Officer Consulted: Nigel Manvell

Date: 07/04/21

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 This report is for information only. There are therefore no legal implications arising directly from it. The Recovery and Renewal Programme is entirely consistent with the Council's powers and duties under the Local Government Act 2000 (economic, social and environmental wellbeing) the Coronavirus Act 2020 and function-specific laws.

Lawyer Consulted:

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Date: 07/04/2021

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Equality is fundamental to the city's and council's recovery from the pandemic, along with addressing the inequalities that it may have worsened. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been completed, as required, by the working groups and include actions to gain the best outcomes for all service users and staff. Each group is considering what existing inequalities have been revealed by the pandemic and social restrictions, what inequalities have been created or worsened, and what can be done to tackle these by the council, its partners and

communities. In addition, the groups are also considering whether recovery from the pandemic creates any opportunities to narrow pre-existing inequalities. The council's Equalities Managers are supporting the process. Progress towards delivery of each EIA is checked regularly as part of the governance of the programme.

The Equalities & Access workstream, which is part of the Vulnerable People working group, meets monthly and has produced an interim report, which was shared with the Policy & Resources Committee in December and the Equality & Inclusion Partnership. An action plan was developed alongside and has been shared with the Corporate Equalities & Diversity Group and a progress update will be presented to a future meeting. Recent Equalities & Access workstream meetings have focused on linking diverse groups with digital inclusion support, financial support, and provision regarding social isolation and mental well-being. Updates and information regarding support continue to be shared with around eighty diverse community contacts. The recent priority has been vaccinations, with the group working to understand vaccine hesitancy amongst diverse communities and working with Communications, Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group to develop appropriate communications and engagement to encourage vaccine uptake. This has included work to arrange a series of webinars with diverse groups where community members can hear from Public Health in person and ask their questions directly. This has included sessions with diverse Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic groups, LGBTQ groups, disability groups, and sessions with British Sign Language interpreters. All actions resulting from the workstream's interim report have been completed or are a work in progress. These include a series of mental health films made with diverse community members to raise awareness of mental health support; escalation of gaps in support (for example, for taxi drivers) to central government; lobbying of central government to review the impact of immigration-based exclusions from welfare and homelessness assistance; and securing funding for the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service to contact parents in community languages to pass on Covid mitigation and prevention messaging.

Finally, a range of data is available in relation to the impact of the pandemic on the city and its communities. Themed analysis and reporting can be drawn from that available but there are often time lags or a lack of baseline data. It will also be important when analysing the data to distinguish Covid-19 as the determining factor and to appreciate the data may change over time in line with local and national circumstances.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 The sustainability of its recovery plans is a key aspect of the programme's approach. This ranges from the plans to facilitate the movement of people around the city, to the sustainability of food provision, to the sustainability of the council's finances. As well as responding to the challenges thrown up by the pandemic, the programme will similarly seek to optimise any opportunities that are presented to support delivery of the council's priorities.

Brexit Implications:

- 7.5 The challenges of city and council recovery from the pandemic are being considered alongside the implications of Brexit. The council's Brexit Implementation Lead attends Covid Recovery & Renewal Group meetings and those of the working groups, as required. Services have been encouraged to plan their delivery in light of both Covid-19 and Brexit, and business continuity plans were refreshed with a similar focus. Opportunities to join up messaging and actions around Covid-19 and Brexit are being proactively identified, including the identification and management of risks.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.6 The implications for crime and community safety/cohesion in relation to the pandemic are embedded within the work of the Community Safety Partnership and Strategy.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.7 Risk management is an integral part of programme management and is being considered throughout the recovery process. The working groups have conducted risk analyses to identify the risks relevant to their area of focus and have captured these in risk logs, which are regularly monitored. Working group level risks are managed by the relevant working group and only reported to the Programme Board if they need to be escalated. Programme level risks are included in working group highlight reports and reported monthly to the Programme Board, if the working group feels they are of corporate interest. The Covid-19 Programme Manager will maintain a programme risk log comprising the programme level risks from the working groups, escalated risks, corporate risks and those that cut across more than one working group. The Programme Board will escalate risks to the Sussex Resilience Forum, as appropriate. As mentioned previously, opportunities that arise in the course of the city and council's recovery from the pandemic will be explored and pursued, as appropriate.

Public Health Implications:

- 7.8 Public Health is at the heart of the council's response to, and recovery from, the pandemic and is mainstreamed throughout the Recovery & Renewal programme. Colleagues from Public Health and the Recovery & Renewal programme are coordinating their responses to the pandemic and meet regularly to discuss progress and any issues.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.9 The programme is structured around the council and city's recovery from the pandemic and the implications to both are integral to the plans of the respective working groups.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Revised Recovery & Renewal scope

Background Documents

None.

Revised Recovery & Renewal scope

People

Customers

Children & Young
People

Food Policy

Vulnerable People

Place

Employment &
Skills

Events & Economy

Homelessness &
Housing

Resources

Supporting
Members

Ways of Working

Underpinning activities:

Local Outbreak Control Plan/Escalation Framework; 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme; equalities; corporate budget management; procurement; data; digital

Directorate recovery:
Plans
Directorate roadmaps; Directorate and Service

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Subject: | Allocation of Contain Outbreak Management Funds 2020/21 | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 28 April 2021 | | |
| Report of: | Acting Chief Finance Officer | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Nigel Manvell | Tel: 01273 293104 |
| | Email: | Nigel.Manvell@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 On the 12th October 2020, Local Authorities became eligible for a series of payments from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to support proactive containment and intervention measures. Payments for the post-June period to 2nd December were based on £8 per person and this authority received £2.327m in this respect.
- 1.2 On 2nd December, Brighton and Hove City remained in Tier 2. As a result of this the council received £2 per person for December or £0.665m. From January the country entered a further national lockdown and payments were made at £4 per person for January, February and March, totalling £3.823m. All Contain Outbreak Management Funding is one-off and for 2020/21 totals £6.815m. Given the restrictions and lockdowns in place since the funding was announced, the funding will need to be carried forward to the 2021/22 financial year when identified containment and Covid-19 related costs will be incurred as set out in the report.
- 1.3 A range of proactive containment measures were outlined by the government in a letter to Local Authority Chief Executives on 19th October. These are outlined in paragraph 3.3.
- 1.4 Contain Outbreak Management Funds are in addition to the Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant issued in June 2020 which totalled £300m nationally and from which this authority received £1.863m. This grant is managed and allocated under Emergency Planning powers through the Health Protection Board. The majority of activities identified in the 2020 Local Outbreak Plan are funded from this source. This includes Covid-19 surveillance, infection prevention and control, outbreak management, local contact tracing, engagement and communications, advice and compliance monitoring of Covid-secure environments and support for vulnerable and/or self-isolating people via the Community Hub.
- 1.5 This report proposes the allocation of 2020/21 Contain Outbreak Management Funding received to date, including delegations for the management of those allocations.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the receipt of £6.815m Contain Outbreak Management Fund from central government for 2020/21 and a further £2.070m for 2021/22.
- 2.2 Approves the carry forward of 2020/21 Contain Outbreak Management Funds of £6.815m to 2021/22.
- 2.3 Agrees to allocate the remainder of the £6.815m Contain Outbreak Management Funds carried forward from 2020/21 to meet the unapproved costs identified in Table 2 of the report.
- 2.4 Delegates any adjustment to approved allocations from the 2020/21 COMF funding to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the S151 Chief Finance Officer and the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee.
- 2.5 Notes that information on the usage of the funds against the approved allocations will be reported in the regular Targeted Budget Management (TBM) monitoring reports to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 2.6 Agrees to defer the allocation of 2021/22 Contain Outbreak Management Funds until later in the financial year when more information on potential local test, trace and support to self-isolate and surge testing costs will be known together with information on the city's progression through the roadmap to recovery.

3 CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 England, along with the rest of Europe, saw an increase in cases of COVID in September following the reduction after the first 'peak' of the pandemic in the spring of 2020. In October 2020 the government introduced Local COVID Alert Levels. From the 12th October 2020, Local Authorities became eligible for a series of payments from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to support proactive containment and intervention measures.
- 3.2 On 2nd December, Brighton and Hove City was in Tier 2. As a result of this the council received £2 per person for December or £0.665m. From January the country entered a further national lockdown and payments were made at £4 per person for January, February and March, totalling £3.823m. All Contain Outbreak Management Funding is one-off and for 2020/21 totals £6.815m. Given the restrictions and lockdowns in place since the funding was announced, the funding will need to be carried forward to 2021/22 to meet identified containment and Covid-19 related costs as set out in the report. The table below shows the breakdown of Contain Outbreak Management Funding for 2020/21.

| Table 1: Contain Outbreak Management Funding 2020/21 | |
|---|------------------|
| Announcements: | £ |
| Post-June 2020 core funding (£8 per person) | 2,327,080 |
| Tier 2 - 2nd Dec to 29th Dec 20 | 664,880 |
| Tier 4/Lockdown 30th Dec to 26th Jan 21 (£4 per person) | 1,163,540 |
| Lockdown 27th Jan to 23rd Feb 21 (£4 per person) | 1,163,540 |
| Lockdown 24th Feb to 31st Mar 21 (£4 per person) | 1,495,980 |
| Total 2020/21 Contain Outbreak Management Funds | 6,815,020 |

- 3.3 The grants are paid under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and are to provide financial support for local authorities to put in place additional public health

and outbreak response measures. The grant conditions are not overly restrictive and the policy states that funded activities should be based on local need, and the Department of Health & Social Care has provided the following example projects/activities that may be appropriate to fund:

- a) Targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes.
- b) Additional contact tracing.
- c) Enhanced communication and marketing e.g. towards hard-to-reach groups and other localised messaging.
- d) Delivery of essentials for those in self-isolation.
- e) Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces.
- f) Harnessing capacity within local sectors (voluntary, academic, commercial).
- g) Extension/introduction of specialist support (behavioural science, bespoke comms).
- h) Additional resource for compliance with, and enforcement of, restrictions and guidance.
- i) Measures to support the continued functioning of commercial areas and their compliance with public health guidance.
- j) Funding Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (marginal costs only).
- k) Targeted support for school/university outbreaks.
- l) Community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population.
- m) Support for engagement and analysis of regional areas to assess and learn from local initiatives.
- n) Providing initial support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who are following tier 3 guidance.
- o) Support for rough sleepers.

3.4 The activities above align well with the Brighton & Hove Local Outbreak Plan and a wide range of other activities being undertaken across the authority through both its Recovery & Renewal Programme and its continuing support for services to groups at high risk of Covid-19 outbreaks such as those at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.

3.5 A primary condition of the grant is to provide information to government on how the grant has been and is planned to be used. Four returns have been made so far for the period January 2020 to the end of March 2021 setting out the potential uses of the grant. However, as the council's financial position has considerably improved in 2020/21 and Public Health outbreak management activity has so far been funded from the separate Test & Trace Service Support Grant announced in June 2020 (£1.862m), no allocation from Contain Outbreak Management Funds is now required in 2020/21. This is not problematic as the funding can be carried forward into 2021/22 with a final outturn provided to government in June 2022 signed off by the Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor

3.6 The government's Contain Outbreak Management Policy Letter of 1 December 2020 published by the Department of Health & Social Care expects activity to be based on local judgement and for allocations to be made in co-ordination with the Director of Public Health. For this reason and to demonstrate compliance with the policy directive, the primary delegations in this report are recommended to be provided to the Director of Public Health.

4 PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF 2020/21 FUNDING

- 4.1 As noted above, the total 2020/21 Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) available is £6.815m. The proposed allocation is summarised in Table 2 below and the detail of each proposed allocation is set out in paragraph 4.2 below.

| Item | Proposed Allocation (Items in Bold are already approved) | £'000 |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Outbreak Management and Surge Management | 0.566 |
| 2 | Support to address barriers to self isolation | 0.100 |
| 3 | Extension of Local Welfare Assistance and Hardship Support | 0.660 |
| 4 | Neighbourhood & Community Support | 0.750 |
| 5 | Support for Food Bank and Community Food Provision | 0.100 |
| 6 | Next Steps Homelessness and Rough Sleeping (P&R 18/03/21) | 2.043 |
| 7 | Managing the City Safely and Outdoor Events Programme 2021 (P&R 29/3/21) | 1.010 |
| 8 | Early Years Providers | 0.107 |
| 9 | Sports and Leisure Facilities (Freedom Leisure) support (P&R 29/3/21) | 0.363 |
| 10 | Support to Schools (pupil share) | 0.703 |
| 11 | Underpinning Council Services ensuring operational support for delivery of the Local Outbreak Plan | 0.413 |
| | TOTAL PROPOSALS | 6.815 |

- 4.2 Allocations shown in **bold** above (6, 7 and 9) have already been approved by Policy & Resources Committee or Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee. In this respect, allocations of £3.416m have already been approved. The details of other proposed allocations are set out below according to the Item number shown in Table 2.

1. **Outbreak Management and Surge Management (£0.566m)**

This allocation will complement the funding allocated in Summer 2020 and continue the delivery of the Brighton & Hove Local Outbreak Plan including additional support for Covid-19 surveillance, infection prevention and control, outbreak management, local contact tracing, enhanced engagement and communications, advice and compliance monitoring of Covid-secure environments and support for vulnerable and/or self-isolating people via the Community Hub

2. **Support to address barriers to self-isolation (£0.100m)**

The Community Hub provides residents with a holistic support offer that joins up the contact tracing activity with the provision of help and advice regarding the financial and practical support available to people to enable them to successfully self-isolate.

This allocation will provide additional support to those required to self-isolate for a 10 day period who don't qualify for the government self-isolation support payments or have financial constraints due to precarious work patterns.

3. **Extension of Local Welfare Assistance and Hardship Support (£0.660m)**

This proposal will provide a preventative approach to people in hardship or on the cusp of hardship and to ultimately avoid further risk of homelessness or rough

sleeping. This will contribute to overall outbreak management in the city, including providing support for those who find it most difficult to self-isolate. The project proposal includes a number of strands all aimed at debt and hardship prevention as follows:

- Debt & Mental Health £0.045m. This is a continuation of a role that will improve and link up services across multiple sectors, ensuring that referral routes are clear, and that best practice is adopted across debt advice, debt collection, primary care and mental health services. There will also be a requirement for a continued presence to set up and embed new processes around debt and mental health, including the setting up and managing of Debt/Mental Health caseworkers.
- Money and Health Case workers £0.080m. A proposed new role of Money & Health Caseworker would be based in the council supporting vulnerable people as they emerge from the pandemic, with increasingly challenging debt issues.
- Debt Advisors £0.080m. Debt is one of the highest risks facing residents during the pandemic and as the city moves into the Covid recovery period. The Breathing Space initiative is a statutory framework beginning in May where debtors can have a hold put on their debt while they seek accredited debt advice. It is anticipated that there will be a high number of cases through this mechanism.
- Local lift-up scheme £0.175m. To pioneer a new service exploring jointly with the DWP how best to support people who do not qualify for standard benefits, Universal Credit or Council Tax Reduction and yet face significant financial difficulties due to debt, ongoing expenses and other impacts of Covid. Project requirements are a Team Leader and Benefits Officer at a cost of £0.075m together with a discretionary fund for distribution of £0.100m; a total cost of £0.175m.
- Winter Grants Scheme £0.090m. The aim of the scheme would be to provide grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary sector organisations that provide direct support for food, fuel and essential items. This would also enable support for Youth and Young People schemes, something that is known to be an area of significant demand. The scheme would be intended to run from October 2021. The proposed scheme would replicate these previous funding at £0.090m.
- Local Welfare Assistance funding £0.100m. Funding to enable the council to continue providing Covid-enhanced features of the Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF), for example:
 - Emergency food and fuel
 - Warmth for wellbeing
 - The 3 3 3 scheme
- Funding to commission innovative digital solutions in the voluntary sector for vulnerable people £0.050m This proposal would allow the council to open a grant process for the voluntary sector to develop innovative digital solutions in order to support vulnerable people. A fund of £0.050m is proposed.
- Data Insight Project £0.040m. This project proposal would provide much needed understanding of the impact of Covid on vulnerability and financial health and contribute to longer term strategies for improving debt prevention.

- In the emergency response and ongoing lockdowns, the local Covid response has been attempting to understand the impact of Covid on the financial health of the city. It is proposed to set aside funding for a role that would focus on fully understanding the longer term impacts on household finance, vulnerability and complex needs.

4. Neighbourhood & Community Support (£0.750m)

Provision of an additional 'Communities Fund' of £0.300m for BAME, LGBTQ+, disability, and women's community and voluntary groups across the city for whom evidence points to a disproportionate impact from Covid, including health inequalities, financial and economic impacts, impact from home schooling on future attainment, barriers to accessing information and support including language barriers, digital exclusion, mental health, and violence towards women. The funding would be managed through a similar process to the Communities Fund. Bids would be encouraged from a wide range of organisations to address both individual needs for these groups, and intersectional needs. The Equalities and Access Workstream Interim Report of August 2020 would guide the detailed planning around funding criteria.

Funding for CVS infrastructure organisations' support to the CVS sector to emerge from lockdown, return to face-to-face delivery of services, providing guidance around health and safety and to support the sector to find suitable premises to enable safe delivery of services (£0.075m).

Support to small community based organisations in the most deprived parts of wards of the city to support recovery from the pandemic (£0.125m). The funding would be allocated in a similar way to the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund. To manage the proposed grant processes above, an additional Senior Officer post would be required in the CETS team (£0.040m).

To provide advice and support for migrant residents whose needs during and after the pandemic are made more complex by their history of migration or by their immigration status by providing an additional 'connector' role and support to associated support organisations. The proposed allocation is £0.150m.

To support the resilience and recovery of communities disproportionately affected by Covid-19 by funding a pilot of 3 reporting centres including the Racial Harassment Forum, Rainbow Hub, and Possability People to cover all hate crime strands, with a need for £0.060m funding for the initial establishment and pilot for one year.

5. Support for food bank provision and community food provision in the city (£0.100m)

Food banks across the city have reported both an increase in demand but also an increase in need for capacity building and support, particularly as the majority are facilitated by volunteers.

The city continues to maintain a focus on sustainable food provision, healthy lifestyles and community wealth, as well as the practice of food growing and easy access to locally grown food in communities.

In addition, more informal groups have emerged that are focused on sustainable food provision and community need. To ensure the continued sustainability of community-based organisations focused on emergency food provision, it is recommended that funding is set aside to help build capacity and resilience for grass-roots led organisations responding to local need in this way.

6. Next Steps Homelessness and Rough Sleeping (£2.043m)

This allocation was approved by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 18 March 2021.

7. Managing the City Safely and Outdoor Events Programme 2021 (£1.010m)

This allocation was approved by the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee on 29 March 2021.

8. Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Providers (£0.107m)

Early years and childcare providers have incurred several increased costs due to the pandemic including contact tracing, cleaning and PPE. Settings and childminders have worked extremely hard throughout this time to ensure that their premises are safe for children and staff, in line with DfE and Public Health guidance, whilst continuing to offer high quality care and learning. Most early years settings have been open to all children since January as well as vulnerable children and children of critical care workers and have played a key role in supporting families throughout the pandemic and especially during the winter lockdown.

A COMF grant allocation would help the sector to meet ongoing additional costs and continue to support Infection Prevention and Control measures, Covid-secure working practices and outbreak management provision as they work through the government roadmap at a time when many of these providers are already managing significant losses of income.

Other authorities are known to be making COMF funding available for this purpose, with up to £750 available for day-care/pre-school settings, including council-run nurseries, and up to £250 for childminders. Maintained school nursery classes and nursery schools will be funded from the schools' allocation. Providers would need to be open with children attending to be eligible.

It is proposed to provide a similar offer in Brighton and Hove which would give rise to total costs of £0.107m if all providers applied as follows:

- 106 Nurseries at £750 = £79,500
- 110 childminders at £250 = £27,500.

To ensure consistency with schools the final allocations to each provider will take account of number of funded children attending in the spring term. It is expected that the maximum funding for each provider will be £1,700 and minimum £100.

9. Sport and Leisure Facilities (Freedom Leisure Contract Extension) (£0.363m)

This allocation was also approved by the Policy & Resources (Recovery) Sub-Committee on 29 March 2021 enabling community access to Covid -Secure facilities.

10. Support to Schools (pupil share) (£0.703m)

The city's family of schools are in contact with the council on a daily basis regarding the additional costs of managing the pandemic, including outbreak management, and continuing to provide safe educational settings to protect pupils and staff. Many are struggling financially with additional costs such as:

- PPE and cleaning materials and additional cleaning regimes ;
- Class supply cover for absent staff;
- Utility costs (heating ventilated classrooms, additional waste, water, etc);
- Management and admin for contact tracing, guidance, communications etc;

- Provision of remote learning

In common with other neighbouring authorities, it is proposed to allocate a population share of COMF funding to schools which would provide them with £0.703m to contribute to the costs of Infection Prevention and Control measures, Covid-secure working practices and outbreak management.

11. Underpinning Council services ensuring operational support for delivery of Local Outbreak Plan (£0.413m)

Covid-19 has resulted in a step change in the use and reliance upon digital methods of delivering services to residents and in the day-to-day work of individuals and teams within the council.

To ensure that council services are fit for purpose when delivering services that protect the most vulnerable in the pandemic, investment is required in providing enhanced resilience to IT&D infrastructure and supporting covid secure future ways of working. The investment will modernise services, expanding on capacity to meet the additional demands and build support to frontline services. This will assist in supporting containment, enabling self-isolation and providing timely support for those affected by the pandemic including our most vulnerable communities.

5 PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF 2021/22 FUNDING

- 5.1 As noted in paragraph 9.5 below, a further allocation of Contain Outbreak Management Funding for 2021/22 was issued on 8 April 2021. It is proposed that the allocation of this funding is considered later in the financial year, informed by the development of the pandemic to ensure that the implications and impact of recovery and progress through the roadmap are understood and the extent of the recovery of the business and visitor economies can be seen. The requirement for further resources for additional scaling up of test and trace, and support for self-isolating will be monitored and reviewed. It will also provide time to understand the success or otherwise of the council's actions to manage recovery, in particular, the situation concerning homelessness and rough sleeping where there are challenging requirements to 'move-on' people in hotels and other emergency and temporary accommodation.

6 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 The proposals set out in the report for the allocation of carried forward 2020/21 COMF grant have been drawn up over a period of weeks by officers from all directorates. The proposals have been reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to ensure that they:
- a) Are consistent with the Public Health aims of the grant which are to tackle Covid-19 by investing in services and initiatives that will directly or indirectly support outbreak containment;
 - b) Enable the delivery of the local Covid-19 Outbreak Plan;
 - c) Are consistent with the council's Recovery & Renewal Programme and can enhance and support the programme;
 - d) Reach a wide range of settings and sectors, from education to CVS, help to support outbreak management and address a wide range of pandemic impacts, from homelessness to hardship, and reach people and communities known to be at risk of Covid-19 and suffering from specific impacts or vulnerabilities.
- 6.2 The proposals identified are those where ELT have identified either the most pressing unmet needs or where funds can have, potentially, the greatest beneficial

impacts in containing Covid, managing outbreaks, protecting the vulnerable, and supporting / ensuring compliance with Covid-secure environments. As noted earlier, this includes the allocation of £3.416m funding which has already been approved by Policy & Resources Committee or its sub-committee.

7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Although no direct consultation has been undertaken, the proposals have been drawn up by teams and services who have been and are working very closely with CVS and statutory partners, as well as members, throughout the pandemic and have developed a strong understanding of where funds can help to address pandemic impacts, ensure settings can operate safely, and where people can be assisted to directly or indirectly contribute to outbreak management.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Contain Outbreak Management Funds can be used to support a wide range of activities as set out in paragraph 3.3 above. Some allocations have already been approved by Policy & Resources Committee and this report sets out proposals to allocate the remaining 2020/21 funding to support outbreak management.
- 8.2 The report recommends that allocation of the recently announced 2021/22 funding is deferred until later in the financial year when the progression through recovery and the understanding of ongoing impacts will be better informed.

9 FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 9.1 In October 2020 the council received notification of Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) of £2.327m from the Department of Health & Social Care. The grant was based on £8 per person and awarded to support proactive containment and intervention measures. Since then, further announcements of £4.488m have been made for 2020/21, bringing total COMF funding up to £6.815m
- 9.2 The letter from the Department for Health & Social Care states that the 'primary condition on this funding is agreement, from eligible Local Authorities, to provide information regarding how funds received from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund have been allocated to date'. The monitoring process for this funding is a monthly return to demonstrate how funding has been allocated against similar headings to those outlined in paragraph 3.3.
- 9.3 The approved and proposed spend against the 2020/21 COMF funding is set out in the body of the report with all funds to be spent in 2021/22. This therefore requires the carry forward of 2020/21 COMF funds for which approval is requested in this report.
- 9.4 Approval of this report also delegates any further decisions on spending or allocation of the carried forward 2020/21 COMF funding to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the S151 Chief Finance Officer and the Chair of Policy & Resources Committee.
- 9.5 A further announcement of COMF funding for 2021/22 was issued on 8 April 2021 and confirmed funding of £2.070m for Brighton & Hove City Council. The report recommends that decisions on the allocation of this funding are reserved until later in the financial year.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 14/04/21

Legal Implications:

- 9.6 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the council with a general power of competence, allowing the council to do anything that individuals generally may do. The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2008) contains powers to deal with pandemics and to manage an infection which presents or could present “significant harm to human health.”. These powers enable the council to allocate the funding as proposed in this report.
- 9.7 It is likely that further guidance will be issued by the Department of Health & Social Care in relation to testing and tracing and Local Outbreaks and the council will be required to comply with this guidance as it emerges, in addition to ensuring compliance with the funding conditions already set out in the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 09/04/21

Equalities Implications:

- 9.8 Covid-19 has had a greater impact on more deprived communities and people from ethnic minorities. The proposed allocations to support CVS organisations working with people from ethnic minorities and other communities will help to address this and provides a local response to some of the Public Health England recommendations in their health disparity report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 9.9 None directly.

Brexit Implications:

- 9.10 None directly.

Any Other Significant Implications:

Public Health Implications:

- 9.11 The approved and proposed allocations in this report support the Local Outbreak Management Plan, directly and indirectly, by focusing allocations on homelessness, visitor, educational and other settings as well as providing support to vulnerable or impacted groups and communities who, without support, may otherwise present a higher outbreak risk, for example, through homelessness or needing to leave their homes for other reasons.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 9.12 The proposed allocations, including those already approved, are expected to assist the city through the roadmap to recovery by providing additional support across a range of priority of sectors to safely manage their settings and the minimise outbreaks among the residents, customers and visitors who use them. This is in addition to allocations to support Public Health in delivering the Local Outbreak Management Plan through support for test and trace, and surge capacity.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

Document is Restricted

