



Corporate Overview Group

Tuesday, 3 May 2022

The impact of Covid 19 on Rushcliffe Borough Council - external focus

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. In February 2022, Scrutiny had the first update on the impact of Covid-19 on Rushcliffe Borough Council which had an internal focus. This included the impact on Council staff, services and major projects. Due to the size of the topic it has been agreed that it would be split up into two reports and this is the second of those reports: the impact of the pandemic on the Council externally including contracted services, businesses, voluntary and community groups within the Borough as well as sports clubs in the Borough.
- 1.2. This report builds on the information provided in the original report by highlighting the specific work undertaken to support communities and businesses. The report avoids repeating what is contained in the previous report but there are inevitable overlaps. When reading this report, Councillors are asked to keep in mind the previous update provided to ensure they get a full picture of the extent and range of work delivered in response to the pandemic.
- 1.3. The report also includes reference to work that was delivered in partnership including through the Local Resilience Forum.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Corporate Overview Group:

- a) Considers the information provided by officers, both in the report and verbally at the meeting in response to the Group's questions
- b) Considers whether there are any additional lessons to be learnt from the Council's response to the pandemic
- c) Considers whether any actions are necessary at this stage in light of the increased knowledge and understanding the Group now has about the Council's response to the pandemic.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. It is important that the Council takes a step back from responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, reflects upon what it has done over the two years of the pandemic to date, and assesses whether any improvements can be made in the future. Scrutiny is an important part of this process.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The previous report to Scrutiny included a timeline for the pandemic which set out national announcements, multi-agency/emergency planning actions and actions by Rushcliffe Borough Council. This timeline is, therefore, not repeated in this report but is available as a reference document.
- 4.2. The information has been separated out into some of the key areas of work for the Council in its external response to Covid-19.

The Community Support Hub

- 4.3. The Community Support Hub is an electronic support system created and hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council as part of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). It allowed for residents to request support for things such as medication collection, emergency food parcels, access to food supply, telephone befriending, physical wellbeing checks and dog walking. Residents and businesses were also able to register their interest in offering volunteer support to those who needed it.
- 4.4. Borough Council officers took, and continue to take, referrals from this system to support Rushcliffe residents. The Borough Council directly actioned 133 support requests via the community support hub, the majority of which were emergency food parcel deliveries (96) and 'safe and well' checks undertaken by officers.
- 4.5. Staff were redeployed, as required, to support the service and those who were delivering the check in and chat service were offered support via the mental health first aiders as required. Referrals from the Hub were not as high as in other districts across the LRF but this was due to the incredible community volunteer mobilisation. There are examples from across the Borough where networks of volunteers were very quickly established via social media, WhatsApp groups etc to support the most vulnerable in their community. Local Councillors played an integral part in this, acting as community leaders to facilitate these networks in their local areas.
- 4.6. One example of this is Radcliffe to the Rescue, which was a group set up by a local resident but then also supported by the Parish Council. A spreadsheet was set up which included those who had put themselves forward to help. It took only four days to have 150 volunteers in place which was enough to support the whole community. Each street had a group co-ordinator who made themselves known via a note through the door to each household. If a resident got in touch with the Parish Council for assistance, details were taken and then

passed that on to the relevant co-ordinator with their consent who then made contact with the resident to support their individual needs.

Loneliness and Socially Isolated Activity Packs

- 4.7. As part of the Reach Rushcliffe initiative, resource packs were developed to support those who were socially isolated and lonely during the Covid-19 crisis. Residents identified through Community Support Hub, partner referral or supported through the Rushcliffe befriending scheme, were able to access resources to support them through these challenging times.
- 4.8. To support more residents across the Borough, officers also worked with Metropolitan Housing to identify vulnerable people that are socially isolated and may be struggling to cope with the situation or experiencing mental health issues.
- 4.9. Physical Activity packs, Recipe Packs, Active Minds packs and bespoke Family packs were developed and distributed to over 100 homes and families across the Borough as part of this initiative.
- 4.10. In addition, funding was secured to provide physical activity packs for children and young people living in Keyworth. Children were identified through the free school meals scheme as well as those living in Metropolitan Housing schemes and young people engaged with Keyworth Youth Club.

Community Networks

- 4.11. As well as these networks of volunteers, many community groups began in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The majority of these groups were themed around tackling loneliness and isolation as well as food insecurity, which were highlighted as major issues during lockdown. For example, Radcooks Community Kitchen who were able to form to provide meals and social interaction to vulnerable Rushcliffe residents.
- 4.12. Other community groups were able to adapt their offer in response to Covid-19, for example, Cotgrave Community Kitchen. Pre-pandemic, the Kitchen provided a 2-course lunch to residents using redistributed food from FareShare. However, during the pandemic this was no longer possible due to social gathering measures, and, therefore, they opted to deliver weekly food bags to residents.
- 4.13. Some community groups were unable to continue, with some only now beginning to reintroduce meetings, for example Move and Mingle. Activities such as health walks were not possible in any group format and, therefore, the group had to pause during lockdown restrictions.
- 4.14. Face to face meetings and numbers attending sessions are beginning to increase across the board, including groups whose attendees are mostly 'vulnerable' residents, with confidence beginning to return slowly. However,

there are those who are still cautious to return to their routine pre pandemic and continue to rely on support that can be provided to them at home.

- 4.15. The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF), funded by Nottinghamshire County Council via the Department for Education, was introduced post lockdown to provide children in receipt of free school meals with physical activity, nutritional education and a healthy meal during school holidays. Summer and Christmas programmes were delivered in 2021, providing a total of 786 HAF funded places for 298 children in the Borough.
- 4.16. It was announced in the Autumn of 2021 that the HAF programme will be funded for a further three years, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Delivery is due to take place during the 2022 Easter holidays, with additional provision across the Borough including at Cotgrave, Bingham, West Bridgford, Edwalton, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Kinoulton and East Leake. 1,524 HAF funded places have been allocated.

Sports

- 4.17. In April 2021, Sport England published the latest findings from the Active Lives Survey for the period November 2019 to November 2020, which includes the first eight months of the Covid-19 pandemic – full national lockdown, easing of restrictions in the Summer and the start of the second lockdown. It stated that:
 - The number of active adults fell by 1.9% or 710,000 compared to 12 months earlier
 - The number of inactive adults rose by 2.6% or 1.2 million compared to 12 months earlier.

With the closure of gyms, stadiums, pools, dance and fitness studios, the number of people walking, running, cycling and doing at home fitness increased, limiting the negative impact on overall activity levels.

- 4.18. For the same period, the Active Lives Children's' Survey also reported fewer children and young people were active during the summer term than in 2019, falling by 2.3%, with just over 100,000 fewer children meeting the recommended level of activity compared to the same period 12 months earlier. 1.6m children and young people went for a walk (+22.2%) or did fitness activities (+22.1%) whilst 1.4m more cycled for fun or fitness (+18.4%).
- 4.19. When the pandemic broke, all sports clubs ceased training and competition, and National Government Bodies of Sport (NGB's) worked to produce rules and guidance specific to their sport for the safe 'Return to Play'. Several funding streams were made available for sports clubs to support them through the pandemic and to get back on their feet. In May 2020, Sport England's Emergency Fund saw an allocation to sports clubs in Rushcliffe - 18 applications were submitted, 10 assessed and six approved with 60% of applications being awarded a total of £22,305.
- 4.20. As restrictions started to lift, some sports clubs were faced with access issues with facilities not being open for clubs. Restrictions on facilities and how

operators had to use them put pressure on the space that was available, and some sports returned before others depending on whether they were played outdoors or indoors. Pressure was placed upon sports clubs to complete Covid safe risk assessments and putting Covid safe/social distancing procedures in place, and many were overwhelmed with what was expected of them. Clubs were supported with the provision of templates for Covid documents and given guidance on how to implement Covid safe measures.

- 4.21. Many clubs are back up and running but some are not back to full capacity due to Covid outbreaks, self-isolating members, long term financial impact, and others who just don't feel ready or comfortable in returning to playing sport. Some clubs have seen a decrease in the number of teams they are entering into competitions and leagues.
- 4.22. Funding is still available for sports clubs to access for those who have been financially impacted by the pandemic and resources in the form of toolkits, guides and case studies are available for sports clubs. Topics include business continuity planning, financial checklists, safeguarding virtually, blogs from national partners and examples of how clubs are staying connected to their members.
- 4.23. Sport will play a huge part in the recovery of Covid because of the huge benefits for our physical and mental health, so it is more important now than ever. Those who are active are happier and being active equips us with essential life skills and also connects and strengthens communities. It has huge value to the nation's economy – directly through productivity and by supporting the health of the population.
- 4.24. Encouraging those who were inactive before Covid was a challenge in itself, but we are now presented with the even bigger challenge to inspire residents to embed activity back in their lives, as well as supporting our sports clubs to 'learn to live with Covid' and to increase membership. The mid-point review of the Leisure Strategy and refresh of the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2022/23 will play a key role in this work.

Community Grants

- 4.25. The Council supported individuals who were self-isolating and who are on low incomes and cannot work from home, with £500 payments from government funding. At the time of writing 1,158 applications have been received, 531 payments have been made, amounting to £265,500 (from funding of £295,000) and there are three applications currently pending further information. All other applications have been rejected due to not meeting the necessary criteria.
- 4.26. The Communities Team have also supported community groups, voluntary organisations, and Charities across the Borough to apply for Social Recovery Funding and Community Food funding again allocated by central government by Nottinghamshire County Council. A total of £220,732 was awarded to support social recovery projects and £103,662 for Community Food based projects across Rushcliffe.

Councillors' Community Support Grant

- 4.27. Between May 2020 and August 2021, the normal application requirements for funding from the Councillors' Community Grant Scheme were suspended. The streamlined process enabled Councillors to draw down funding based on a one-page form they submitted directly to the Monitoring Officer with funding paid directly to the Councillor to pass on. This speeded up the process and allowed Councillors to spend around £9,000 over the period supporting voluntary and community groups as well as parish councils to deliver vital services within their local communities. Funding was spent on PPE, food parcels, craft activities to beat social isolation, and materials for the creation of medical scrubs, face masks and laundry bags. Councillors were able to use their funding to directly assist community groups at a grass roots level.
- 4.28. In addition to this as set out earlier in the report many Councillors took a leading role in the establishment of the network of volunteers across the borough. In many cases they were the community leaders bringing together these groups and providing much needed support and guidance.

Business support

- 4.29. To ensure our businesses had access to the most up to date information, a dedicated Covid-19 business support webpage was set up which was updated daily, or more regularly if required. To date this has had over 41,000 views. In addition to this, regular posts were put on social media of both the Borough Council and Rushcliffe Business Partnership.
- 4.30. With the support of officers from the Council, Rushcliffe Business Partnership switched its networking to virtual and hosted 24 sessions attracting over 500 attendees between April 2020 and July 2021. These provided an opportunity for businesses to interact with each other and provide advice and support but also some sessions had guest speakers including on financial management, the support form D2N2 Growth Hub and advice on PR and marketing.
- 4.31. Since September 2021, the Business Partnership has returned to in-person networking which takes place fortnightly alternating between West Bridgford and Ruddington. Whilst numbers were initially low, they are steadily increasing attracting around 25 to 30 businesses each time.
- 4.32. The Council was allocated £212,000 of Welcome Back Funding which is European Regional Development Fund to support the safe reopening of our town centres. This was given in two lots; first in June 2020 and again in April 2021. The deadline for spending this funding was the end of March 2022. In May 2020, the Borough Council allocated £10,000 to each of the six larger towns/villages in the Borough (Bingham, Cotgrave, East Leake, Keyworth, Radcliffe on Trent and Ruddington). This funding has supported the delivery of a large amount of activity in our town centres including:

- i. 10 business support webinars were held with expert consultants providing advice and support
 - ii. 24 businesses received one to one business support from retail and PR consultants
 - iii. 30 market traders attended a webinar on the basics of social media and establishing a digital presence
 - iv. Shop local shop safe communications campaign
 - v. Appointment of High Street Ambassadors to support the reopening of our high streets and be a visible presence to provide reassurance
 - vi. Enhanced summer events programme in West Bridgford to encourage people back into the town centre
 - vii. Improvements to the appearance of town centres including; new planters in Bridgford Park, lighting at Eaton Place in Bingham and improvements to seating areas on Gordon Square
 - viii. The appointment of a temporary Town Centre Manager who has supported the delivery of a number of events and markets, the establishment of retail forums/meetings and one to business support for some on the high street
 - ix. Development of a new strategy for West Bridgford Way to enhance what it offers, support local businesses and increase footfall.
- 4.33. The team also supported the safe reopening of the Council's markets including the temporary relocation of West Bridgford Farmers Market to Bridgford Road car park. Bingham Market shut for a very short period of time but when restrictions allowed started trading again for essential retail only. All the market traders have been provided with advice and support from the Market Managers and all markets are now back up to the number of stalls that they were pre-pandemic and new enquiries are being received.
- 4.34. In the run up to Christmas 2020, a Rushcliffe gift voucher initiative for residents was launched to encourage them to shop locally and to spend in participating businesses across the Borough. This was a social media campaign and to enter residents had to tag their favourite local business and say why it was their favourite. 40 gift vouchers were awarded each with a value of £25 and 60 businesses put themselves forward to be a participating retailer.
- 4.35. During the Covid -19 emergency response period, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government reached an agreement with the Local Government Association that local councils in England would voluntarily offer free car parking to all NHS workers, social care staff and NHS volunteer responders. The national pass guidance was always intended to be temporary and, 14 months after its introduction, was withdrawn on 21 June 2021.
- 4.36. To support the High Street and the Council's Shop Local Shop Safe campaign, the Council made the decision in April 2021 to launch its 'Free after 3' parking initiative where parking in all paid car parks was free after 3pm. This was extremely popular allowing visitors to support the local economy by providing free parking, visitors were able to not only shop locally but also to enjoy the night-time economy of Rushcliffe's town centres. The Free after 3 initiative was

further extended to cover the summer period and finished in September 2021 when normal parking charges resumed.

Covid compliance

- 4.37. The Environmental Health Team worked incredibly hard ensuring that businesses were complying with the Government guidance. Overall compliance levels amongst businesses was very high and this helped significantly by the advice and support provided by the Team. In the initial lockdown guidance was being updated regularly and the Team had to keep up to speed with that to ensure they were giving the right advice.
- 4.38. In total the Council served 23 fixed penalties on businesses found to be in breach of Covid regulations and on one occasion had reason to seek the closure of a business in West Bridgford who were guilty of repeated breaches. In total, more than 800 additional Covid related advisory/enforcement visits were undertaken by this team none of which would have been necessary pre-pandemic. The Team carried out more than 350 advisory visits plus many more enforcement visits ensuring compliance.
- 4.39. For a period bars and restaurants were only able to trade outside to reduce the risk of infection. This coincided with warmer weather and the increased use of public parks with the result being increased reports of anti social behaviour and littering. External contractors were therefore employed to ensure all relevant rules and regulations were complied with to safeguard public health and protect local amenity.
- 4.40. The Team were also involved in the local outbreak control cell, led by Nottinghamshire County Council. This was in place to identify areas, premises etc where there was an outbreak and ensure targeted support was in place to respond to that. As this was led by the County it meant that Officers were still able to deliver their core work.
- 4.41. The responsibility for the allocation and administration of pavement licences transferred to the Borough Council in 2020 which enabled hospitality businesses to extend their seating areas outside. The licensing team very quickly ensured there was a quick and simple process for businesses to follow to enable them to have a new or extend an existing licence where this was appropriate.

Property

- 4.42. The Property Team has worked closely with commercial tenants to support them throughout the pandemic, and this has resulted in occupation levels of Council owned commercial property remaining high at around 96% year to date. Any vacancies are being proactively marketed to secure new tenants.
- 4.43. One of the ways the team supported the Council's business tenants was by offering rent holidays to those that needed them. A total of £134,073 rent holiday has been provided to 24 RBC tenants, of which £74,908 has been

invoiced and collected. 19 tenants have cleared debts, four remain with payment plans in place or plans to be updated, with only one tenant without a plan. Outstanding rent holiday is £59,166.

- 4.44. In recent months, Heads of Terms have been agreed for the final retail unit at Cotgrave, with a likely completion in May / June. Interest is good for the new offices which form part of the Chapel Lane development, with three businesses showing strong interest in pre-letting suites, one of which is close to agreeing heads of terms. The office is due to open with the leisure centre in August 2022.

Business Grants

- 4.45. Rushcliffe Borough Council allocated £25,000 to a high street businesses covid digital recovery grant. This was to support businesses impacted by covid with things such as creating/improving a website, social media presence and adding a transactional capability. The grant is for a maximum of £1,000 and there is a requirement for 30% match funding from the business. To date 27 applications have been received, 21 approved and 16 have been paid. The Council continue to promote the availability of the grant as there is some funding remaining.
- 4.46. Final cases of additional restrictions (ARG) grants have now been paid with 129 grants paid in the last iteration since January 2022. Since the scheme started in October 2020 a total of £4.7m of ARG grants have been paid. At the time of writing 179 business have benefitted from £595k of mandatory grants.
- 4.47. The Government announced additional relief for business affected by Covid under the Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) scheme. The Council was allocated £1.787m and at the time of writing £1.709m has been allocated to eligible businesses.

Contracts management

- 4.48. Due to national restrictions the leisure centres were closed from the end of March 2020 until 25 July 2020 and then again from 5 November to 29 March 2021 (golf) and 12 April 2021 (leisure centres). The significant financial impact of this has been covered in other reports. Throughout these periods and beyond officers from the Council worked closely with colleagues from Parkwood and Mitie to support the safe reopening of the leisure centres. This included regular meetings and site visits to discuss re-opening plans and phased re-introductions of sports as guided by national governing bodies. Officers carried out checks on cleanliness and compliance and received regular reports on usage and customer feedback.
- 4.49. The National Leisure Recovery Fund sought to support eligible public sector leisure centres to reopen to the public. The £100 million worth of funding was managed and administered on behalf of DCMS by Sport England. An application was submitted on 8 January 2021, and the Council was successful in securing funding of £224,000 which will go some way to help fund the financial support given to Lex Leisure as our leisure centre service providers.

- 4.50. The leisure centres are now all generally operating well, and recovery continues with numbers and usage at about 80% of pre-pandemic levels. Swimming lessons are proving very popular and are back up to normal levels. Work to refurbish and convert the old indoor bowls hall to a new sports and exercise hall has been completed and there are regularly larger classes of up to 50 at a time enjoying the converted space for group exercise.
- 4.51. New Year joining offers saw a further uptake in memberships and whilst general gym usage remains below pre-pandemic levels, the Council continues to work with its leisure providers as the industry prepares for the Living with Covid Plan and a return to more normal operational use. Golf usage has been very good, particularly over the summer period and the course has received many plaudits for its current condition from the golf committee and user feedback is very positive. It is hoped that weather permitting the interest and usage in golf will continue on both the main and par 3 courses over the summer of 2022.

Testing and vaccination centres

- 4.52. To support the NHS, the Borough Council was asked to identify sites for testing and, then, vaccination centres.
- 4.53. Gamston Community Hall operated as a vaccination site from December 2020 and this was handed back to the Council on 18 October 2021 as it was no longer required. Over the course of its use, more than 180,000 vaccinations were given at the Hall. It was then closed for a further few months while required maintenance was carried out; this was partly due to its use as a vaccination centre but also planned work included in the capital programme. A contribution from the NHS was given towards the required maintenance work. The Hall is now open again for community use.
- 4.54. Testing sites were established in the car park at Rushcliffe Arena as well as mobile sites in East Leake, Cotgrave and Bingham.
- 4.55. The mass vaccinations programme was rolled out across the country followed quickly by the booster vaccinations for all ages. This was predominantly being delivered at doctors' surgeries, community pharmacies and hospitals.

Communication

- 4.56. To support businesses a number of successful communications campaigns have been delivered which featured local businesses including:
- i. We are open
 - ii. Eat out to help out (Government led initiative)
 - iii. Shop Local Shop Safe
 - iv. Specific COVID-19 grants information and distribution that saw over £36m of grants distributed and over £19m of business rates reductions

- v. Business Support Programmes that offered one to one coaching on marketing, shopper experience and reopening when restrictions allowed. COVID Digital Recovery Grants to help businesses improve their online presence, sales and create greater online transactional capability

The team have also delivered extensive promotion of events and markets to encourage people back into town centres. They have also featured some new local businesses as well as some good news stories from others to help promote the range of businesses in the Borough.

- 4.57. Key messages to residents as agreed with the Local Resilience Forum Communications Cell, including key health partners, were often three or four times a day across Council channels. This approach worked very well to ensure that messages were consistent and accurate.
- 4.58. Residents were also supported through established contact with Town and Parish Councils through the regular Town and Parish Updates and daily updates to clerks disseminating information across other hyper local channels. Support for fellow residents was also highlighted through communication of local charity efforts food distribution including the Friary, Sewa Day and Portello Lounge, building on the work of the Local Resilience Forum's Community Support Hub.
- 4.59. In March 2021, over 4,000 addresses identified as among those living in communities with higher ethnic minority and lower income groups were contacted with vaccination information to encourage uptake of the first jabs of the Covid -19 vaccine and assist rollout at local centres. They were also consistently signposted as appropriate to local vaccination centres including the Council owned Gamston Community Hall where over 180,000 vaccines were distributed.
- 4.60. There were also key updates signposted to residents on financial support to those eligible and £150 council tax reductions for those on low incomes.

Critical success factors

- 4.61. The strong communities of Rushcliffe and the army of volunteers who stepped up very quickly to support their communities. The Community Hub was established to perform this function, but the reality is this took some time to establish. Without the very quick response of local community members many would have struggled in those first few weeks of lock down. This voluntary community support system then also meant that the community hub, especially in Rushcliffe, did not have as many referrals to deal with as anticipated.
- 4.62. The existing strong links between teams within the Council and community groups, sports clubs etc. Due to existing relationships in place across all teams in the Council community members and businesses were able to speak to officers quickly to get advice and support. In addition, officers were able to contact residents and businesses to better identify what was needed and provide support.

- 4.63. The efficient administration of business grants to get much needed support to businesses very quickly. The Revenues Team, supported by colleagues from other service areas, very quickly established a process for businesses to access grants. This saved many businesses and thanks to this rapid response the high streets of Rushcliffe are still well occupied with minimal impact on empty units. Due to the hard work in the first place to establish this process for the first grants this made it easier for the team to then administer future rounds of grant funding.
- 4.64. The support provided both financially and by officers for the Council's leisure provider. All leisure centres, like many other businesses, had to close down due to lockdown. The contracts team worked closely with Parkwood, the Council's leisure provider to ensure they had the support they needed. The team continued to work closely with them to support their reopening including ensuring covid compliance and supporting with communications to encourage people back into the gym. The refurbishment of the former bowls hall at the Arena also created additional fitness space where classes could be held and participants could exercise with a safe distance from others in the class.
- 4.65. The additional support offered to businesses through the Government Reopening High Streets Safely Funding and Welcome Back Funding but also from the Borough Council Team and the Business Partnership. Many businesses accessed the webinars, asked for one to one support or simply came along to the networking. This approach provided a strong sense of community amongst the businesses to support each other. This is something that is continuing in many areas with the establishment of town centre business groups/forums.

5. Implications

5.1. Financial Implications

Financial implications have been covered in various Finance reports and Covid update reports to Cabinet over the last 2 years.

5.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

5.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

5.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

6. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The Covid 19 pandemic had an impact on everyones quality of life and the actions that the Council took were to, as far as possible, try and mitigate those impacts.
Efficient Services	Despite the challenges the pandemic presented the Council continued to deliver all of its services to residents.
Sustainable Growth	Businesses in the Borough particularly those on the high street, faced a significant impact from Covid 19 but the support provided by the council including grants and rent holidays helped to support them through this challenging time.
The Environment	

7. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Corporate Overview Group:

- a) Considers the information provided by officers, both in the report and verbally at the meeting in response to the Group's questions
- b) Considers whether there are any additional lessons to be learnt from the Council's response to the pandemic
- c) Considers whether any actions are necessary at this stage in light of the increased knowledge and understanding the Group now has about the Council's response to the pandemic.

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Background papers available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices:	None.