

## Overview and Scrutiny Review Matrix

**Review Topic: Covid and Recovery**

**Timescale**

**Start: July 2023**

**Finish: January 2024**

### Review Rationale:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission has agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at lessons learned from the local response to Covid and the subsequent recovery. This will consider the perspectives of residents, service users and businesses.

The scope of the review will include:

- Local resilience and preparedness for the pandemic
- The Council's role in delivering public health and emergency support
- The Council's role in supporting local businesses
- The Council's role in supporting the education sector
- The Council's role in supporting the care sector

The scope specifically excludes the response at the national level.

### Terms of Reference:

The Task and Finish Group will consider the following:

- **Part 1:** Resilience and Preparedness for the Pandemic

*The Council's risk management and emergency planning, and general preparedness for a pandemic, including structures, governance, processes and protocols, as well as local stocks of personal protective equipment.*

- **Part 2:** Public Health and Emergency Community Support

*The Council's role in relation to:*

- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to residents*
- *Identification and containment of local outbreaks*
- *Supporting the local vaccination programme*
- *Implementing the test and trace system*
- *Identifying vulnerable residents*
- *Delivering practical support to residents*
- *Safeguarding and providing support for victims of domestic abuse*
- *Provision of voluntary sector support*

- **Part 3: Supporting Local Businesses**

*The Council's role in relation to:*

- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to businesses*
- *Undertaking enforcement of Covid regulations*
- *Providing business rates relief*
- *Distributing grants*
- *Preventing fraud*
- *Undertaking checks / enforcement activity*
- *Advising on plans for local events*
- *Supporting economic recovery*

- **Part 4: Supporting the Education Sector**

*The Council's role in relation to:*

- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to schools*
- *Providing mental health support to staff and pupils*
- *Supporting the switch to online learning*
- *Assessing the impact on academic attainment*
- *Providing support to help pupils catch up on lost learning*

- **Part 5: Supporting the Care Sector**

*The Council's role in relation to:*

- *Providing infection control training*
- *Disseminating Covid-related information and advice to children's homes, care homes, and domiciliary care staff*
- *Distributing PPE*
- *Supporting hospital discharge*
- *Providing mental health support to staff and residents*
- *Providing support to help isolated residents reintegrate*

**Review Membership:**

5 Members (TBC)

**Chairman:** TBC

**Vice-Chairman:** TBC

**Scrutiny Officer:** Gordon Oliver

**Information Required:**

Governance arrangements

Information flows and blockers

Provision of advice, guidance, practical support and financial support

Effectiveness of measures implemented

Lessons learned and changes put in place

Experience of residents, businesses and service users

**Documents/Evidence:**

Residents Surveys

Covid Community Support Hub Evaluation Report

## Berkshire Observatory Recovery Report

### **Witnesses:**

Chief Executive  
Interim Executive Director – People  
Executive Director - Resources  
Acting Service Director - Communities and Wellbeing  
Acting Service Director – Adult Social Care  
Economy Manager  
Acting Head of Children and Family Services  
Emergency Planning Manager  
Public Protection Manager  
Economy Team  
Town / Parish Councils  
Chris Boulton (Greenham Trust)  
Garry Poulson (Volunteer Centre West Berkshire)  
James Wilcox (Fair Close)

### **Metrics:**

Levels of PPE  
Covid infections (vs Berkshire and England)  
Number of outbreaks  
Number of care home deaths  
Excess deaths during the pandemic  
GCSE and A-Level grades  
Demand and waiting lists for CAMHS  
Number of furlough scheme payments processed  
Number of business support grants processed  
Number of business closures / new businesses created  
Town centre footfall

### **Desired Outcomes:**

Members will collate their recommendations which will then form the basis of a report to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission.