

**COUNCIL**

**11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**LATE ITEM - UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

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**Report of Chief Executive**

**Report to Full Council**

**Date: 11 November 2020**

**Subject: Update on Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

- This report updates Council on the continued impact of Covid-19 on the council and city, including the announcement of a national lockdown effective from 5 November 2020 which has implications for the provision of council services, the city and on vulnerable residents and on businesses.
- This report sets out some of the main local implications of the pandemic in recent months. It also describes some of the key current issues, although it is important to mention that these are very dynamic given the rapidly changing context. The issues include: the need to find ways to encourage more people to self-isolate; the need for accessible and quick local testing, effective contact tracing and effective ways to deliver a vaccine; finding ways to simplify the restrictions to improve compliance; the need for more business support that reaches a broader set of sectors; an ongoing concern about widening inequalities and mental health, and ongoing concerns about local government finance.
- Regular reports have been discussed by Executive Board outlining progress and highlighting key issues. This response and recovery plan is driven by our shared ambition and values, with the overriding priority of tackling poverty and inequalities through a combination of a strong economy and a compassionate city. The objectives of the response and recovery plan are to:
  - Minimise the effect of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the city, especially the most vulnerable
  - Proactively use intelligence to target support, resources and powers

- Ensure provision of essential services, focusing on individuals, families, communities and businesses most affected, whilst encouraging communities to engage and provide support themselves
- Minimise the effect of the pandemic on local economy, resuming economic activity safely and appropriately where permitted
- Ensure our recovery and renewal is underpinned by Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing and Climate Change - whilst also being aware of EU Exit implications.

Our priorities remain to allow safe travel; safe public spaces in communities, district centres and the city centre; safe delivery of essential services; safe education; and safe working.

## **2. Best Council Plan implications** (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

The updated Best Council Plan 2020-2025 reflects the current Covid-19 context, while maintaining the three pillar priorities of inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; and climate change, under the overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities. Covid-19 continues to have a hugely significant impact on all areas of the Best Council Plan, with the economy, employment, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing all detrimentally affected by the pandemic, which will undoubtedly limit progress towards our ambitions and present long-term challenges for the city. Our city ambitions, particularly our overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities, will be key to guiding our recovery, particularly as we begin to better understand the long-term health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

## **3. Resource implications**

- 3.1 The financial impact of the pandemic, in terms of both additional costs and lost income, remains a significant concern. Whilst the Council continues to make every effort possible to protect the front line delivery of services, it is clear that the position remains challenging. Since March the Council has seen reduced income across sports, arts and heritage, visitor attractions and car parking, and this impact will undoubtedly worsen due to closures required as part of the national lockdown.
- 3.2 The financial impact of the pandemic has been, and will continue to be, regularly reported to Executive Board. Government funding to date is not sufficient to meet the financial pressures already reported and a budget gap remains even with the application of government financial support.
- 3.3 The Council has received £51.6m of Government funding towards the costs of Covid-19, of which £2.6m was applied in 2019/20. The Government announced an additional £1bn of funding for local authorities on 12th October, with allocations confirmed on 22nd October. Leeds will receive £20.6m of this new funding. An estimated £18.9m Government contribution to lost income is also reflected in the latest financial projections, pending confirmation of the final amount. Application of this £88.5m of grant in 2020/21 would still leave a Covid financial pressure of £71.6m. The position assumes that the estimated Collection Fund income shortfall of £41.1m would impact on the revenue position in 2021/22 and future years, leaving a Covid funding gap of £30.5m for 2020/21. This position does not reflect the potential effects of the national lockdown recently announced, where cost pressures and income losses are expected again.

3.4 To cover the period of the national lockdown between 5 November and 2 December the government has confirmed that local authorities will receive a lump sum payment equivalent to £20 per head to support businesses - this will form a discretionary grant fund and will be net neutral to the Authority. Local authorities are also expected to receive £8 per head to support local public health activity.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- a) To note the regular reports to Executive Board, which will continue.
- b) To note the national changes effective from 5 November 2020 when the country enters a second lockdown, and the anticipated impacts.
- c) To note the work being undertaken to support vulnerable people and businesses.
- d) To note the continued financial pressure in responding to the pandemic and the loss of income faced due to the closure of facilities.
- e) To thank the people of Leeds, council staff and all partners for their considerable efforts to try to control the virus in the city.

#### **1. Purpose of this report**

1.1 This report updates Council on the latest Covid-19 position and the move to a national lockdown from 5 November 2020, which was announced two days after an agreement was reached for West Yorkshire to enter Tier 3 of the Covid Alert Level system. The report provides an update on the recent and current position, based on the information available at the time of writing, and describes the measures in place to support residents and businesses.

#### **2. Background information**

2.1 On 17 July, the government published the Contain Framework setting out the principles, roles and responsibilities of both the national and local parts of the system, and the regulations. It also set out categories as infection rates escalated in local areas, named as: area of concern, area of enhanced support, and area of intervention. A watchlist was published each week by the government as areas escalated through the categories and put enhanced action plans in place to tackle rising infection rates.

2.2 During August the infection rate in Leeds increased with local outbreaks and we enhanced our outbreak plan accordingly, with regular reports to members through the updates and to government each week.

2.3 On 10 August the government announced that NHS Test and Trace would be localised from 24 August, and on 21 August in Leeds we had a significant backlog (89) of cases that hadn't been traced.

2.4 On 4 September Leeds was placed into the category of area for concern, which meant closer national monitoring of the infection rates and activity.

2.5 On 11 September Leeds was placed into the category of enhanced support, which meant better access to testing because of prioritisation and earlier access to cases for local contact tracing. Unfortunately this coincided with the national issues on testing which meant that there were significant issues accessing testing. Local access to cases should soon be in place.

- 2.6 In response to increasing rates of infection across the country, on 21 September the UK Chief Medical Officers and Joint Biosecurity Centre recommended that the UK Covid-19 alert level moves from level 3 (Covid-19 epidemic is in general circulation) to level 4 (Covid-19 epidemic is in general circulation, transmission is high or rising exponentially).
- 2.7 On 12 October the government introduced a 3-tiered system for Covid-19 restrictions, with Medium, High and Very High tiers for all places across England. Leeds was entered into Tier 2 (High).
- 2.8 On 29 October it was announced that Leeds was to enter Tier 3, the Very High Covid-19 Alert Level, from 2 November 2020, in light of a continued high level of infection across the city, and an increasing number of patients in hospital with Covid-19. Following extensive negotiations between central government and West Yorkshire leaders, a financial support package of £59.3 million was agreed for the region, with an important difference that the business support funding was in addition to existing national schemes, and that Tier 2 monies were backdated.
- 2.9 On 31 October the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown with effect from 5 November. People will be required to stay at home and only leave the home for specific, limited purposes including education, work (if you cannot work from home), for exercise or outdoor recreation with your household/support bubble or one other person from another household, for medical reasons, to shop for food and essentials, or to provide care or volunteer. Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues will close and pubs, bars and restaurants must close with the exception of takeaway services. Schools, colleges and universities will remain open. The full guidance on the restrictions is available on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website, with significant changes to much of the existing guidance. The purpose of this national action is to reduce the growth rate of the virus, in order to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed; ensure schools, colleges and universities can stay open; and ensure that as many people as possible can continue to work.
- 2.10 In light of this national development, the government confirmed to West Yorkshire leaders that the region would no longer enter Tier 3 from 2 November, and would remain in Tier 2 until the national lockdown began on 5 November. The Prime Minister confirmed that when the national lockdown ends on 2 December, the Tier system will be re-introduced, although the exit routes and parameters for de-escalation have not yet been published. The announcement of a national lockdown two days after the announcement that West Yorkshire was to enter Tier 3 has caused confusion for residents and businesses, with all organisations and businesses working hard to adjust to the new situation.
- 2.11 During the 31 October press conference the Prime Minister confirmed an extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, also known as the furlough scheme, for a further month, and on 5 November the Chancellor confirmed that the scheme will be extended until the end of March. The extended Job Retention Scheme will operate as the previous scheme did, with businesses paid upfront to cover wage costs. Employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500. Under the extended scheme, the cost for employers of retaining workers will be reduced. Businesses will have flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis or furlough them full-time, and will only be asked to

cover National Insurance and employer pension contributions which, for the average claim, accounts for just 5% of total employment costs.

2.12 One of the many pieces of important guidance that has changed is for people who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) (CEV) to Covid-19. People are considered to be CEV if they have one or more conditions as named in the guidance, or if their GP or specialist has added them to the NHS shielded patients list because they are deemed to be at higher risk of serious illness if they were to catch Covid-19. Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise (including with one other person from outside their household or support bubble) or to attend essential health appointments. People who are CEV are strongly advised to work from home, and if they cannot work from home, should not go to work for the period of restrictions. People in this circumstance may be eligible for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit. People who are CEV are advised not to visit shops or pharmacies, and to use friends, family, volunteers (including NHS Volunteer Responders) or local authority support to access food and medicine. This report sets out the measures in place to support vulnerable residents.

2.13 In line with government guidance and regulations, a number of Council premises will be required to temporarily close for the duration of the national lockdown, which begins on 5 November and will last until 2 December. The Council will endeavour to keep as many services operating as possible, in Covid-secure ways, to minimise the impact of the lockdown on residents, particularly the most vulnerable. Some services, while permitted to remain open, may be impacted by reduced staffing levels as we support staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable or need to self-isolate. Information has been added to the [leeds.gov.uk](https://www.leeds.gov.uk) website to outline changes to council services, and members will continue to be updated via regular briefings.

### **3. Main issues**

3.1 Alongside the current national focus on restrictions on people's activity, effectively controlling the virus relies on a broad range of public health and infection control activity, and we continue to focus strongly on improving access to testing, supporting people to self-isolate, providing clear communications, including targeting messages based on the latest intelligence, and compliance and enforcement. Strong partnership arrangements are in place with the voluntary, community and faith sectors, schools, colleges and universities, and a range of other partners to proactively respond to any clusters of cases. The overall approach to outbreak management is overseen by robust governance arrangements and guided by our Outbreak Control Plan, which has recently been continually revisited to reflect the extensive learning that is taking place. There has been a continued focus on ensuring access to testing and pushing for fast turnarounds of tests, as well as pressing for local contact tracing to improve effectiveness in reducing infection rates. Our approach to outbreak management has been extensively reported to members via regular briefings and will continue to be a key focus of future reports to Executive Board.

3.2 The rate of infection in Leeds remains high, at 429.2 cases per 100,000 people at 4 November, and the test positivity rate is 16.9%. Leeds is ranked 24<sup>th</sup> nationally in terms of rate of infection. A concerning issue is that the rate of infection in over 59s continues to rise, although the rate of growth appears to be reducing, and this is a key area of focus across the partnership. Recent weeks have seen increased Covid-

related hospital admissions and demand for Covid-related care at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT), with more Covid-19 patients in LTHT now than at the peak of the pandemic in mid-April. Significant activity is underway across health and social care partners to support people who are medically fit to leave hospital to be discharged. Communications messages aim to describe these pressures and appeal to the public to play their part.

- 3.3 There are 34 care homes as at 4 November that are reporting cases of Covid-19. Appropriate control measures are in place and all homes are receiving support from Public Health and Adult Social Care. Environmental Health continue to contact and support a number of workplaces across a range of services that are reporting cases. As of 3 November, 12 premises have reported cases, and most have fewer than 12 cases. The number of cases amongst university students is decreasing. On 2 November the universities reported 114 cases amongst students (7 day cumulative). The number of cases of Covid-19 in schools and colleges remains dynamic, at the time of writing there were 23 secondary schools and 60 primary schools with cases, with schools taking the appropriate steps to isolate cases and trace contacts.
- 3.4 There have been 777 deaths registered as at 4 November where 'Covid-19' or 'coronavirus' was mentioned. Of these, 761 (98%) were Leeds residents, 447 (58%) were in hospitals, 281 (36%) were in care homes, 15 (2%) in a hospice, and 34 (4%) in their own home. To date, 17% of all deaths registered have been covid-19 related.

### **Support for Residents**

- 3.5 As we enter a period in which everybody must stay at home more, particularly those who are clinically extremely vulnerable to Covid-19, we will continue to promote information to residents about accessing support. The [leeds.gov.uk](https://leeds.gov.uk) website provides support information for residents, including help with accessing food, help with paying council tax, self-isolation support, mental health support and information for families with children and young people. Anybody in need of support is encouraged to contact the Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS) on 0113 3760330. A system is being implemented through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to allow LWSS staff to book priority supermarket slots for vulnerable customers.
- 3.6 Fareshare's emergency food supply, provided by DEFRA and national suppliers, came to an end in September, and since then has worked to source food from surplus sources, supported by the Council. In response to the announcement of a national lockdown, Fareshare are now increasing their production of food bags from 300 to 1000 per week. If there is evidence that more emergency food is required the Council, Voluntary Action Leeds and Fareshare will ensure that this is raised with government and national suppliers, and in addition the Council has earmarked £50,000 to purchase food if necessary.
- 3.7 The Community Care Volunteer Hubs remain in place with funding until the end of 2020. Voluntary Action Leeds have implemented a platform to allow for flexible recruitment of volunteers to meet the requirements of the hubs. To support the increased food supply arrangements, additional volunteers will be required, which is



being progressed with Voluntary Action Leeds and publicised through various channels.

3.8 A Self-Isolation Support scheme was established on 12 October and is now open to applications from eligible individuals for a £500 lump sum to allow them to self-isolate. Up to 29th October, 805 applications had been received to the scheme, of which 405 had been assessed, and 169 had been successful (42% of those assessed). Of the successful applications, 88% (149) had been paid. A large number of applications are awaiting assessment due to a delay in officers getting access to the national CTAS system, however this figure is expected to reduce significantly. Of the assessed applications that have been unsuccessful, initial analysis suggests that this was because applicants were not in receipt of the qualifying benefits as set out in the scheme's eligibility criteria decided by central government. There is a known issue with the scheme whereby people advised to self-isolate by the NHS Covid-19 App may not be eligible for financial support. This issue has been raised with government. The percentage of people isolating when they need to remains a concern, with recent national figures suggesting this is around 20%.

### **Support for Businesses**

3.9 The government has announced a number of financial support schemes to assist businesses through the period of the national lockdown, as well as backdated support for businesses affected by Tier 2 restrictions. The details of these schemes are being worked through and the Leeds City Council [Help for Businesses](#) webpage will be updated as and when schemes are open for applications. Businesses can register their interest in grant schemes via the webpage and will receive an alert when new information becomes available.

3.10 Business premises forced to close in England are to receive grants worth up to £3,000 for the period 5<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December through the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) scheme. Properties with a rateable value of £15k or under can receive grants of £1,334 per month; properties with a rateable value of between £15k and £51k can receive grants of £2,000 per month; and properties with a rateable value of £51k or over can receive grants of £3,000 per month. Businesses will be able to apply for these grants via Leeds City Council. We are aiming to 'go-live' on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. In advance businesses can register an interest on the [Help for Business](#) page of the Council website and will be alerted when the scheme opens. The application form will also be available on this page. Leeds City Council will receive an allocation from government in order to award these mandatory grants.

3.11 In addition, the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is a single allocation based on £20 per head of population for each local authority to use to run a discretionary grant scheme, for example to closed businesses that do not have a rateable value or have costs that are significantly higher. Discretionary grants can also be paid to businesses that are severely impacted rather than closed. The allocation can also be used for other direct business support at the discretion of the local authority, for example support for businesses from Growth Hubs. The ARG is a one-off payment for Local Authorities in financial year 20/21 and is to be used in 20/21 and 21/22 and will not be renewed. We expect the value of this Grant to be £15.85 million for Leeds City Council and this will be paid to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Proposals for this Discretionary

Funds are currently being developed with the expectation that we will align the approach across West Yorkshire as far as possible but administer our scheme locally.

- 3.12 Leeds City Council will receive an allocation to pay Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) grants for the period spent under Tier 2 restrictions. Each Local Authority will receive a formula-based allocation for each full or part four-week in Tier 2. This funding allows each Local Authority to run a discretionary grant scheme to support those businesses impacted by the restrictions. Our estimate is that this will amount to approximately £2.25 million for Leeds. Proposals for this Discretionary Fund are being developed with the expectation that we will align the approach across West Yorkshire as far as possible.
- 3.13 Under the Local Restriction Support Grant (Sector) scheme, businesses that were required to close in March and which have never been able to re-open (for example nightclubs) will be paid grants of up to £3,000 for every four-week period that they have to remain closed. The scheme began on 1 November with no back-dating.
- 3.14 Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

4.1.1 Given the fast-moving pace of change throughout the pandemic and particularly in recent weeks, it has not always been possible to consult about service change in the usual way, and indeed there has often been no choice about changes due to the need to comply with national guidance, often with little time to prepare. Every effort continues to be made to keep the public informed of changes, using our full scope of communication methods, including direct email to 114,000 residents who are registered. Ward members continue to play a key role in engaging the public, particularly in encouraging neighbourliness, volunteering to help the vulnerable, and encouraging people to play their part in minimising spread of the virus. They also play a key role in answering questions from members of the public and area supported to do so by council staff and frequently asked questions. Engagement with stakeholders has continued and in many cases has been strengthened. This includes regular written updates to elected members and MPs, partners, weekly messages to the public, press releases and press conferences, regular thank you notes to staff and regular calls with councillors, MPs, head teachers, universities, colleges, VCFS, and businesses. Engagement with staff has continued including via staff surveys, Staff Network groups, and a staff Facebook group, with regular wellbeing pulse surveys.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

4.2.1 Minimising the impacts of the pandemic on the most vulnerable is central to our response and recovery planning. There is significant concern about the impacts of the pandemic on exacerbating poverty and inequalities, which is a key focus. As we enter a second national lockdown over winter, poor mental health and social isolation present a risk to residents. Current infection rates also indicate an increasing rate of transmission of Covid-19 in the over 60s, and a harm

minimisation plan has been developed and is being delivered to reduce the risk of exposure amongst this age group, balanced with a recognition of the adverse impacts of reduced social contact on mental health and wellbeing.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 The updated Best Council Plan 2020-2025 reflects the current Covid-19 context, while maintaining the three pillar priorities of inclusive growth; health and wellbeing; and climate change, under the overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities. Covid-19 continues to have a hugely significant impact on all areas of the Best Council Plan, with the economy, employment, education, community resilience and health and wellbeing all detrimentally affected by the pandemic, which will undoubtedly limit progress towards our ambitions and present long-term challenges for the city. Our city ambitions, particularly our overarching priority of tackling poverty and inequalities, will be key to guiding our recovery, particularly as we begin to better understand the long-term health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

### **4.4 Climate Emergency**

4.4.1 In line with our city ambitions, responding to the Climate Emergency is a key priority as we move through the recovery period, with a focus on continuing to improve air quality and work towards a carbon neutral city by 2030. With the announcement of a national lockdown and people instructed to work from home where possible and stay at home as much as possible, traffic flows are likely to significantly decrease which will reduce air pollution and carbon emissions. During the pandemic a number of active travel schemes have been progressed, including segregated cycle lanes and School Streets to encourage active travel to school, to support people to walk and cycle. In addition, a number of infrastructure schemes to support carbon reduction, such as the Leeds PIPES district heating network, and Connecting Leeds city centre improvements for public transport and pedestrians, have progressed well and sometimes ahead of schedule, during the pandemic.

### **4.5 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.5.1 The financial impact of the pandemic, in terms of both additional costs and lost income, remains a significant concern. Whilst the Council continues to make every effort possible to protect the front line delivery of services, it is clear that the position remains challenging. Since March the Council has seen reduced income across sports, arts and heritage, visitor attractions and car parking, and this impact will undoubtedly worsen due to closures required as part of the national lockdown.

4.5.2 The financial impact of the pandemic has been, and will continue to be, regularly reported to Executive Board. Government funding to date is not sufficient to meet the financial pressures already reported and a budget gap remains even with the application of government financial support.

4.5.3 The Council has received £51.6m of Government funding towards the costs of Covid-19, of which £2.6m was applied in 2019/20. The Government announced an additional £1bn of funding for local authorities on 12th October, with allocations confirmed on 22nd October. Leeds will receive £20.6m of this new funding. An estimated £18.9m Government contribution to lost income is also reflected in the latest financial projections, pending confirmation of the final amount. Application of

this £88.5m of grant in 2020/21 would still leave a Covid financial pressure of £71.6m. The position assumes that the estimated Collection Fund income shortfall of £41.1m would impact on the revenue position in 2021/22 and future years, leaving a Covid funding gap of £30.5m for 2020/21. This position does not reflect the potential effects of the national lockdown recently announced, where cost pressures and income losses are expected again.

- 4.5.4 To cover the period of the national lockdown between 5 November and 2 December the government has confirmed that local authorities will receive a lump sum payment equivalent to £20 per head to support businesses - this will form a discretionary grant fund and will be net neutral to the Authority. Local authorities are also expected to receive £8 per head to support local public health activity.

#### **4.6 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.6.1 With the agreement of the Chair, given the significance and scale of this issue, it is appropriate for Council to receive an update at this meeting. However, this report is coming to Council as a late paper due to the fast paced nature of developments of this issue and in order to ensure Council Members receive the most up to date information as possible.

#### **4.7 Risk management**

- 4.7.1 The risks related to coronavirus continue to be monitored through the council's existing risk management processes, for example under two of the main standing risks of "Major incident in the city" and "Major Business continuity issue for the council". Other corporate risks, such as those relating to the council's budget and the Leeds economy have also been updated to reflect the impact of the outbreak. More specific risks relating to coronavirus are being managed through the multiagency arrangements established at the start of the pandemic, with the more significant risks covered in the coronavirus risk document reported to Executive Board each month.

### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 Covid-19 continues to have a hugely significant impact on the Council, Leeds residents, and the local economy. Our priority continues to be to minimise the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable and protect the local economy as far as possible within the limits of considerable resource constraints. The national lockdown effective from 5 November will impact many Council services, people and businesses.
- 5.2 The issues include: the need to find ways to encourage more people to self-isolate; the need for accessible and quick local testing, effective contact tracing and effective ways to deliver a vaccine; finding ways to simplify the restrictions to improve compliance; the need for more business support that reaches a broader set of sectors; a concern about widening inequalities and mental health and ongoing concerns about local government finance.
- 5.3 The people and businesses of Leeds have demonstrated great resilience, adaptability and care for others throughout the changing landscape of local and national restrictions, and we thank them for their contributions to protect themselves and others. It is now critical that everybody follows the guidance to minimise their

contact with others, protect themselves and their loved ones and to protect the health service.

## **6. Recommendations**

- a) To note the regular reports to Executive Board, which will continue.
- b) To note the national changes effective from 5 November 2020 when the country enters a second lockdown, and the anticipated impacts.
- c) To note the work being undertaken to support vulnerable people and businesses.
- d) To note the continued financial pressure in responding to the pandemic and the loss of income faced due to the closure of income-generating facilities.
- e) To thank the people of Leeds, council staff and all partners for their considerable efforts to try to control the virus in the city.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

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