

	<u>Agenda Item: X</u>
Report to:	Local Outbreak Engagement Board
Date:	1st October 2020
TITLE:	BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL TEST AND TRACE IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Mary Orhewere Interim Assistant Director of Public Health (Test & Trace)

Report Type:	For discussion
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1. Purpose:

To inform the Board on progress with implementation of the local test and trace programme within Birmingham

2. Recommendation

3.1 The Board is asked to note for discussion at the meeting.

4. Report Body

4.1 The paper summarises the progress since the last meeting implementing the local test and trace programme elements within Birmingham. The implementation of the communication and engagement plan and the budget outline are covered under separate items.

4.2 The key points to highlight from the report are:

- **Governance**
 - The Test and Trace Cell is a tactical level Cell under the Council's emergency plan structures.
 - The Health Protection Forum has been meeting on a fortnightly basis.
 - The Test and Trace Cell and the outbreak setting groups are meeting twice weekly.
 - There is a twice weekly multi-agency City Incident Management Team meeting.
 - There is a daily Health Protection Test & Trace Cell update meeting.

- **Structure**

- Approximately 24 roles have been appointed to through the internal recruitment and agency recruitment processes. The remaining roles were appointed to but candidates withdrew due to other offers so are being recruited to again through agency at pace.
- Recruitment for remaining circa 31WTE roles within the temporary Test and Trace Structure is via internal secondment, external recruitment and agency recruitment. The posts are being appointed for 6 months with potential extension to 12 months and the number of roles may be extended as national requirements become clearer.
- Once the fixed term structure is established the Public Health Division will re-establish more business as usual functions but all staff will rotate through the fixed term structure as surge capacity and this allows potential surge increase for the response function by another 30 WTE.
- 6 matrix roles have been agreed with Environmental Health in addition to 2 matrix roles within the wider PH structure.
- 2 matrix roles have been agreed with Facilities to support test site coordination.
- Volunteers are being recruited across the Council's existing workforce to support targeted door to door engagement if required.

- **Testing in Birmingham**

- Birmingham now has seven operational walk-through sites and two operational drive through sites. As part of the agreement with the Department of Health and Social Care we are identifying a further three sites. We have also requested two further sites focused on areas of high student resident populations and a further two drive through mobile testing units.
- The Drop and Collect pilot is progressing well and to date 5970 kits have been delivered and 5028 have been collected. This has identified a number of additional cases in households not previously identified.
- A detailed briefing on testing is appended to this report.

- **Data Access**

- There has been significant improvement in the data access for the Council. The Director of Public Health now has access to mapping software that details individual cases and their demographic details down to street level.
- There remain some significant gaps, especially around the intelligence on the demographic of testing uptake which limits the ability of local teams to understand poor uptake and target a response.
- Data is also often limited in its completeness, particularly regarding workplace and there seems to be limited information from the national contact tracing service on social gatherings which may be underpinning spread locally.

- The Council continues to work with Public Health England and the NHS Test and Trace Service to strengthen the approach.
- Public Health England continue to look closely at issues across the West Midlands area, meeting with the Directors of Public Health on a daily basis to discuss cross-border issues.
- **Enhanced Contact Tracing**
 - As part of the enhanced support the Council has been working with NHS Test and Trace to step up enhanced contact tracing. This went live on the 24th September.
 - The burden placed on the Council is significantly higher than projected by Public Health England and we are working with them and the NHS Test and Trace service to review the model. Currently between 300-500 cases are being passed over as incomplete from NHS Test and Trace on a daily basis which is significantly higher than the modelling prior to start of 20-30 cases a day and is at risk of overwhelming the public health capacity.

4.3 Key actions being taken next:

- Complete recruitment of fixed term test and trace core team.
- Scoping of further mobile testing sites and potential for further walk-through testing facilities to increase access to citizens without cars.
- Mobilise additional capacity to support contact tracing through the Contact Centre.

5. Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Unable to appoint to the test and trace core team	Low	High	Multi-strand approach to recruitment through internal secondment and agency appointment.
Poor testing uptake leading to uncontrolled spread of Covid-19	Medium	High	Increased testing facilities/ access across the City Community engagement Multi-lingual coms Business engagement
Overwhelming demands from contact tracing impacting on other business critical public health functions	High	High	Mobilising the Contact Centre response based on Staffordshire model to help mitigate impact on PH specialist team.

Appendix A: Testing Briefing

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Dr Justin Varney,
Director of Public Health

Elizabeth Griffiths
Assistant Director of Public Health

Mary Orhewere
Interim Assistant Director of Public Health (Test and Trace)

Appendix A: Testing briefing

Testing locations

There are currently six operational Local Testing Sites (LTS) offering a walk-in testing service in Birmingham. Four more LTS are in progress towards being operational. There are currently 4 Mobile Testing Units (MTU) offering a drive-through testing service in Birmingham. Two more MTU are in progress to being operational. Site locations are detailed in the table and maps below. There are also two regional testing sites (RTS) within close proximity of Birmingham: one at Birmingham Airport and one at Kelvin Way in West Bromwich.

COVID-19 Testing Locations 23rd September 2020 (Pillar 1 & Pillar 2 Tests)

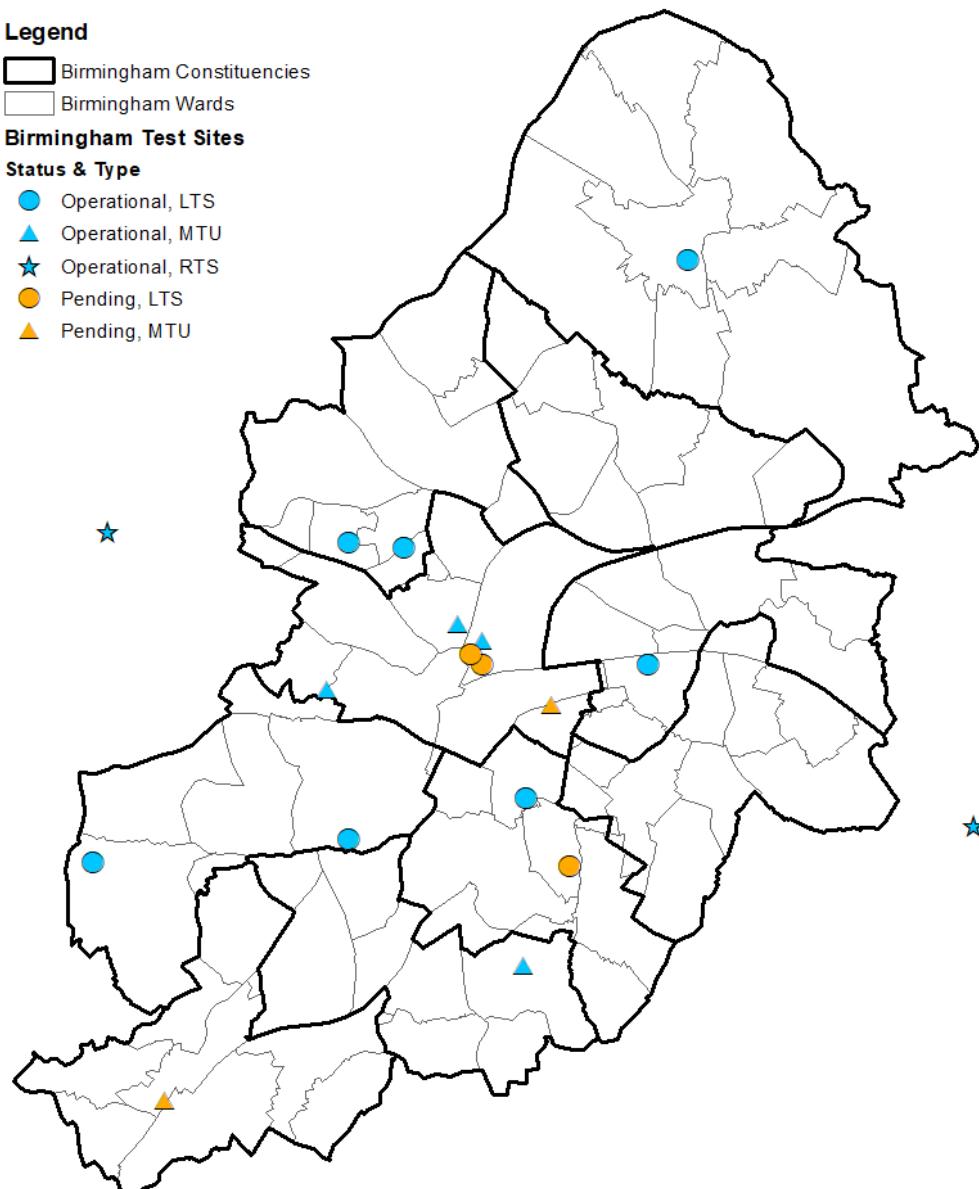
Legend

- Birmingham Constituencies
- Birmingham Wards

Birmingham Test Sites

Status & Type

- Operational, LTS
- ▲ Operational, MTU
- ★ Operational, RTS
- Pending, LTS
- ▲ Pending, MTU



Notes: LTS = Local Testing Site, MTU = Mobile Testing Unit, RTS = Regional Testing Site.

Source: COVID-19 Testing Planner produced 23rd September 2020.

Produced by Birmingham Public Health Division (2020).

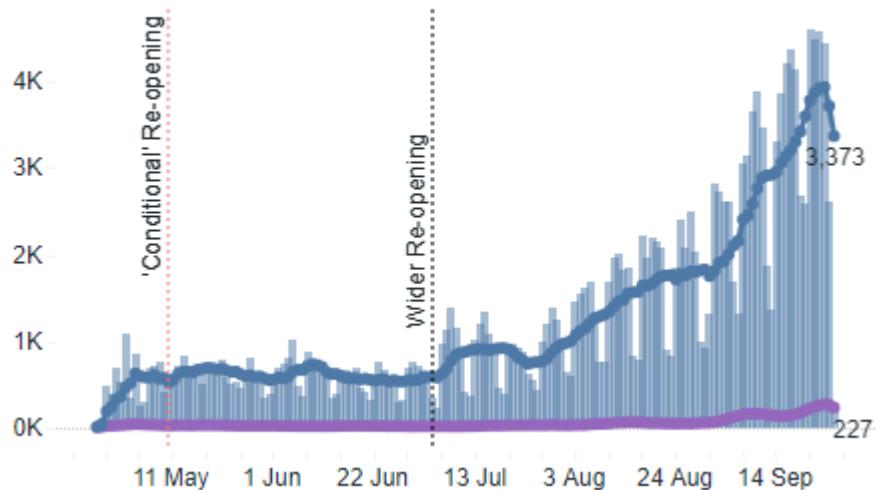
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MTU / LTS	Status	Type
Lozells Villa Street - walk in centre	Operational	LTS
Saltley Health & Wellbeing Centre	Operational	LTS
South Parade Car Park Sutton Coldfield	Operational	LTS
Summerfield Community Sports Centre	Operational	LTS
UoB site - South Gate Car Park	Operational	LTS
Woodgate Valley Country Park	Operational	LTS
Alfred Street Car Park - Sparkbrook	Pending	LTS
Aston Uni Car Park	Pending	LTS
City Centre LTS - BCU (service Learning Quarter)	Pending	LTS
Colgreave Avenue Sparkhill	Pending	LTS
Aston Uni Holt Street	Operational	MTU
Brewery Street Coach park	Operational	MTU
Reservoir Road, Edgbaston	Operational	MTU
Moseley Rugby Football Club	Operational	MTU
St Andrews, Small Heath	Pending	MTU
St Modwens - Bristol Rd South Longbridge	Pending	MTU

Testing Rates

Pillar 2 testing in Birmingham has been increasing rapidly in recent weeks.

Daily number of tests and 7 day moving average of **Total** and **Positive** Tests



The rate of testing in Birmingham over the last 7 days is the highest amongst authorities in the West Midlands met county area. The proportion of positive tests in Birmingham is the also highest in the met county area.

LA Name	Tests	Rate of Tests (per 100,000 pop)	Positive	% Positive	Rate Positive (per 100,000 pop)
Birmingham	26,050	2,281	1,825	7.0%	159.8
Sandwell	7,089	2,158	386	5.4%	117.5
Solihull	3,458	1,598	181	5.2%	83.7
Wolverhampton	5,197	1,973	213	4.1%	80.9
Walsall	5,703	1,773	228	4.0%	70.9
Coventry	4,930	1,327	233	4.7%	62.7
Dudley	4,810	1,685	164	3.4%	57.4

Data Source: NHSD Local Authority Testing Dashboard (Pillar 2). Extracted 28/09/20 Data to 25/09/20

The rate of testing in Birmingham over the last 7 days is the third highest out of the core cities. The proportion of positive tests in Birmingham is the 5th out of the core cities.

	Tests	Rate of Tests (per 100,000 pop)	Positive	% Positive	Rate Positive (per 100,000 pop)
Manchester	15,313	2,770	2,032	13.3%	367.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	7,507	2,479	834	11.1%	275.4
Birmingham	26,050	2,281	1,825	7.0%	159.8
Liverpool	11,078	2,224	1,384	12.5%	277.9
Leeds	14,708	1,854	1,154	7.8%	145.5
Bristol	7,730	1,668	101	1.3%	21.8
Sheffield	9,109	1,557	547	6.0%	93.5
Nottingham	3,831	1,151	174	4.5%	52.3

Data Source: NHSD Local Authority Testing Dashboard (Pillar 2). Extracted 28/09/20 Data to 25/09/20

Testing By Ward

The rate of testing by ward in Birmingham over the past month (data from 27/08 to 26/09) varies from 59.3 per 1000 population in Nechells Ward to 150.0 in per 1000 population in Castle Vale Ward. The percentage of positive tests ranges from 1.1% in Sutton Four Oaks Ward to 12.9% in Sparkhill Ward. Two wards stand out as they have high proportions of positive tests but low rates of testing: Sparkhill Ward – 12.9% positive, testing rate of 95.0 per 1000 population; Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East Ward – 9.9% positive, testing rate of 99.5 per 1000 population.

Ward Name	Tests	Population	Test Rate per 1000	% Positive	Case Rate per 1000
Nechells	997	16,813	59.3	4.3%	59.3
Handsworth	930	12,703	73.2	7.8%	73.2
Aston	1,776	24,142	73.6	7.5%	73.6
Small Heath	1,588	21,114	75.2	8.8%	75.2
Alum Rock	2,090	27,311	76.5	9.1%	76.5
Newtown	1,134	14,621	77.6	6.1%	77.6
Sutton Roughley	900	11,591	77.6	3.0%	77.6
Bordesley Green	997	12,701	78.5	8.0%	78.5
Holyhead	986	12,454	79.2	6.6%	79.2
Ladywood	2,258	28,415	79.5	3.5%	79.5
Rubery & Rednal	867	10,841	80.0	2.0%	80.0
Birchfield	1,020	12,556	81.2	7.9%	81.2
Sutton Reddicap	815	10,004	81.5	2.3%	81.5
Ward End	1,133	13,617	83.2	7.4%	83.2
Bournbrook & Selly Park	2,108	24,598	85.7	2.7%	85.7
Sheldon	1,710	19,895	86.0	3.8%	86.0
Sutton Vesey	1,691	19,656	86.0	2.3%	86.0
Perry Barr	1,811	20,620	87.8	5.4%	87.8
Bordesley & Highgate	1,388	15,763	88.1	3.2%	88.1
Oscott	1,777	20,139	88.2	2.2%	88.2
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	1,430	15,975	89.5	3.0%	89.5
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2,432	27,132	89.6	5.4%	89.6
North Edgbaston	2,208	24,600	89.8	6.0%	89.8
Stockland Green	2,171	24,168	89.8	3.2%	89.8
Sutton Four Oaks	839	9,156	91.6	1.1%	91.6
Tyseley & Hay Mills	1,148	12,352	92.9	4.0%	92.9
Sparkhill	2,064	21,722	95.0	12.9%	95.0
Yardley West & Stechford	1,226	12,701	96.5	6.0%	96.5
Allens Cross	1,045	10,778	97.0	1.3%	97.0
Perry Common	1,138	11,645	97.7	2.5%	97.7
Handsworth Wood	2,017	20,610	97.9	5.4%	97.9
Sutton Mere Green	972	9,856	98.6	2.2%	98.6
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	2,595	26,089	99.5	9.9%	99.5
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	2,409	24,031	100.2	2.9%	100.2
Heartlands	1,351	13,392	100.9	7.8%	100.9
Gravelly Hill	1,095	10,821	101.2	2.8%	101.2
South Yardley	1,086	10,725	101.3	4.2%	101.3
Longbridge & West Heath	2,068	20,362	101.6	1.7%	101.6
Northfield	1,070	10,412	102.8	2.2%	102.8
Harborne	2,483	24,113	103.0	2.3%	103.0

Sutton Trinity	971	9,257	104.9	2.0%	104.9
Pype Hayes	1,143	10,816	105.7	1.5%	105.7
Garratts Green	1,160	10,701	108.4	4.9%	108.4
Quinton	2,230	20,407	109.3	3.6%	109.3
Stirchley	1,107	10,103	109.6	3.2%	109.6
Balsall Heath	1,347	12,233	110.1	8.4%	110.1
Sutton Wylde Green	982	8,900	110.3	2.4%	110.3
Moseley	2,419	21,774	111.1	6.0%	111.1
Lozells	1,110	9,809	113.2	6.7%	113.2
Shard End	1,395	12,311	113.3	2.1%	113.3
Weoley & Selly Oak	2,738	24,008	114.0	2.1%	114.0
King's Norton North	1,348	11,803	114.2	1.8%	114.2
Highter's Heath	1,298	11,267	115.2	2.6%	115.2
Bournvile & Cotteridge	2,066	17,863	115.7	1.6%	115.7
Druids Heath & Monyhull	1,373	11,753	116.8	3.1%	116.8
Kingstanding	2,483	21,052	117.9	1.9%	117.9
Erdington	2,451	20,715	118.3	1.6%	118.3
Billesley	2,379	19,889	119.6	5.8%	119.6
Hall Green North	2,742	22,832	120.1	8.0%	120.1
Bartley Green	2,748	22,858	120.2	2.4%	120.2
King's Norton South	1,365	11,311	120.7	1.4%	120.7
Edgbaston	2,698	22,092	122.1	5.1%	122.1
Bromford & Hodge Hill	2,659	21,679	122.7	4.9%	122.7
Brandwood & Kings Heath	2,356	18,991	124.1	3.6%	124.1
Yardley East	1,287	10,362	124.2	4.1%	124.2
Frankley Great Park	1,523	11,836	128.7	2.1%	128.7
Acocks Green	3,263	24,279	134.4	4.2%	134.4
Hall Green South	1,422	10,467	135.9	6.0%	135.9
Castle Vale	1,472	9,812	150.0	1.8%	150.0

Testing by Age, Gender & Ethnicity

Rates of testing were highest in the 30 to 39 age group. The positive % was highest in the 10 to 19 age group (4.8%). Testing for the school age population has increased in recent weeks since schools reopened.

Age Group	Tests	Population	Test Rate per 1000	% Positive	Case Rate per 1000
0 - 9	11,793	164,441	71.7	2.7%	1.9
10 - 19	11,606	158,804	73.1	5.9%	4.2
20 - 29	20,416	203,119	100.5	5.3%	5.2
30 - 39	20,547	158,926	129.3	5.3%	6.6
40 - 49	16,100	133,683	120.4	4.6%	5.4
50 - 59	14,338	124,958	114.7	3.9%	4.3
60 - 69	8,699	89,974	96.7	3.7%	3.5
70 - 79	5,772	63,766	90.5	2.1%	1.9
80+	8,276	44,145	187.5	1.2%	2.2

Rates of testing were highest in the Asian ethnicity group. However, recording of ethnicity is incomplete in approximately two thirds of tests and therefore this data should be treated with caution.

Ethnic Group	Tests	Population	Test Rate per 1000	% Positive	Case Rate per 1000
Asian	23,075	303,947	75.9	11.4%	8.4
Black	7,322	102,536	71.4	5.5%	3.7
Mixed / Other	539	73,857	7.3	60.6%	4.3
White	3,851	661,476	5.8	0.7%	0.9
Total	34,787	1,141,816	30.5	4.3%	4.3

The rate of testing is higher in the female population but the proportion of positive tests is higher in the male population.

Gender	Tests	Population	Test Rate per 1000	% Positive	Case Rate per 1000
Male	47,264	565,492	83.6	5.1%	4.2
Female	68,662	565,492	121.4	3.6%	4.4
Unknown	2,004				
Total	117,930	1,141,816	103.3	4.1%	4.3

Pillar 1 Testing

Pillar 1 testing is used when we suspect or know of an outbreak. It allows us to be more responsive, and we get to see the results locally. Pillar 1 testing has been used in care homes, asylum centres, homeless centres and schools. From the 1st to the 18th of September 2,136 tests were offered to service users and staff through this mechanism.

Testing Capacity

National summary from Department of Health & Social Care:

- The National Testing Programme is experiencing continued exceptionally high demand due to a number of factors such as the return of schools and the demand for testing from international travellers, and this is expected to remain high for the next two weeks.
- Demand for testing is increasing and as such test sites in areas with higher prevalence will be prioritised and continue to provide higher volumes of testing; areas with lower prevalence will have reductions of testing capacity.
- If any sites including Mobile Testing Units are showing as fully booked in this report, bookings will temporarily close, but the units and sites will remain fully operational throughout the day to service the bookings. Slots for bookings will reopen throughout the day.
- Booking slots are made available the evening before for morning appointments, and on the morning for afternoon appointments. There are times therefore during the day where appointments may not be available. We are continually seeking to release more booking slots, so people who are symptomatic, or have other confirmed reasons for needing a test should come back later to the website or 119 service and re-attempt their booking.

National interventions to reduce inappropriate demand for testing include:

- Scaled back national advertising campaign
- Updated comms stating that tests should be prioritised for symptomatic people
- Writing to schools to say when a test is, and is not, needed
- Ensuring tests are not offered to walk ins with symptoms and not to those accompanying them if they are asymptomatic

DHSC state capacity of approx. 300 tests per MTU per day. All RTS, LTS and MTU are currently running at 100% capacity in the Midlands.

Testing Strategy

A key strand of the Birmingham COVID escalation intervention strategy is to increase testing uptake. This is to be achieved through a number of methods including:

- Increased in walk-through testing facilities (Local Testing Sites LTS) in West, East and Central Birmingham. Aim is to increase to 15 sites
- Increased in drive-through testing facilities (Mobile Testing Units MTU) in North and South Birmingham. Further sites in progress towards being operational
- Translation & videos on testing kit use promotion
- Drop & Collect doorstop testing kit distribution to increase uptake in areas with low testing uptake or areas where there is increased concern

- Phase two of drop and collect to include proactive and reactive delivery of testing kits to essential public services without current access to testing kits through national portals.

Drop & Collect

Community engagement has highlighted the following barriers to participation:

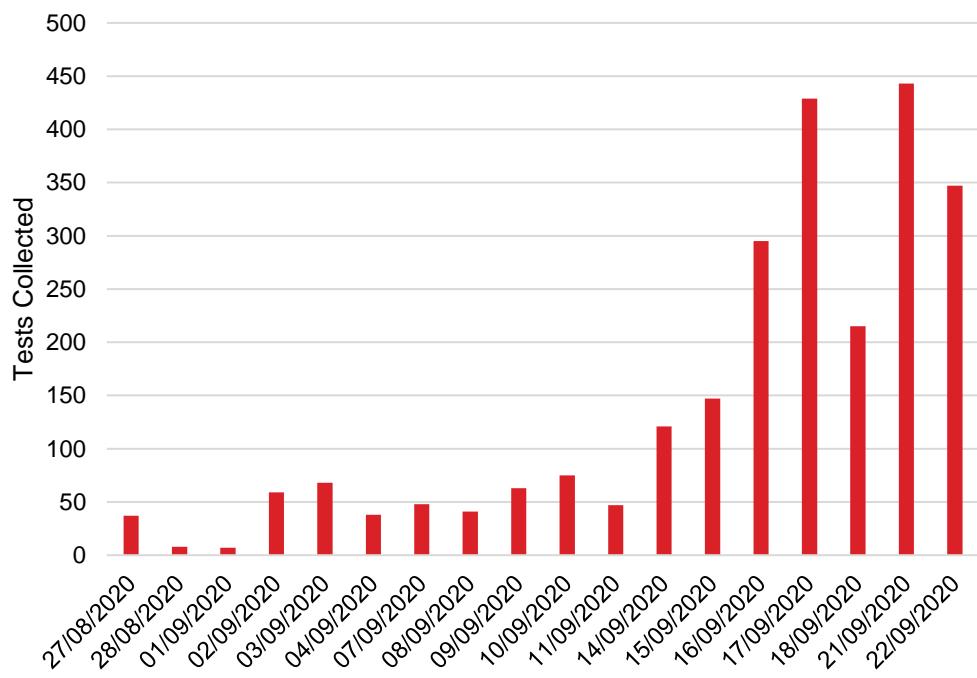
- Access to testing sites
- The long lead-time between requesting a postal testing kit and receiving the result.
- The complex instructions on postal testing kits, particularly for those whose first language is not English.

The aim of the drop and collect service is to address these barriers to testing and improve testing rates in Birmingham.

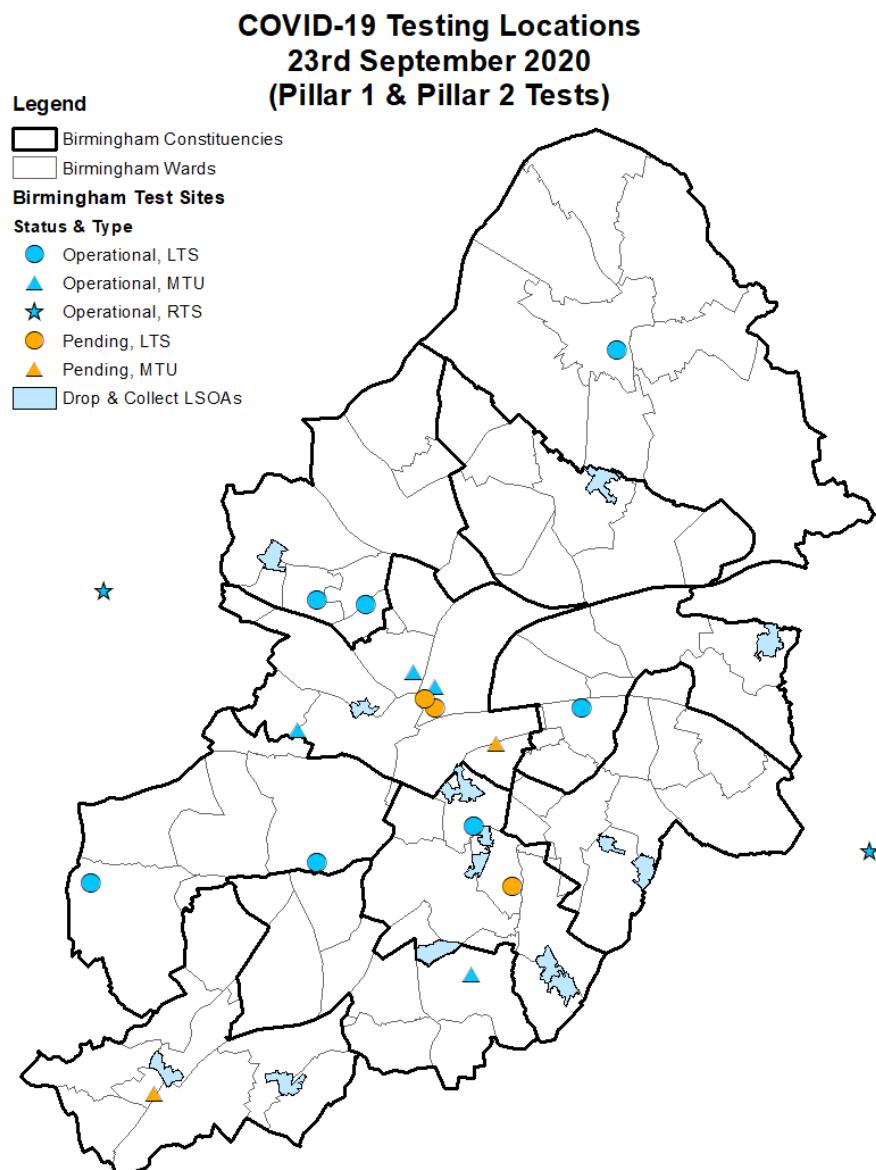
Door step test distribution has been shown to be effective in Leicester in increasing testing uptake in areas of low uptake, and also increasing intelligence in areas where there is a diffused positive case distribution with no clear link. Door step test distribution increased return rate of kits and also provides an opportunity for direct awareness and education with individuals.

Phase one is focused on doing drop and collect approach in specific Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across the city. Teams of 2 staff members are deployed to knock on doors and offer testing kits to a household, the kits are then collected about an hour later. Teams have translated materials to support use of the testing kits.

Drop & Collect Tests Collected by Day



As of 22nd of September 5,308 visits have been made at 222 postcodes in 14 LSOAs. From the visits to date 2,952 testing kits have been delivered and 2,488 have been collected. Currently approximately 400 tests a day are being collected. The scheme aims to deliver 10,000 per week by week 4



The following people have been involved in the preparation of this testing briefing:

Andy Evans
Marion Gibbon