

	<u>Agenda Item: 9</u>
Report to:	Local Covid Outbreak Engagement Board
Date:	1 st September 2021
TITLE:	APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE LIVING SAFELY WITH COVID STRATEGY
Organisation:	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer:	Iheadi Onwukwe, Consultant in Public Health (Business & Strategy), Test & Trace Team

Report Type:	For discussion
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1. Purpose:
1.1 To inform the Board of the initial development and approach to the new Living with COVID Strategy 2021-2022

2. Recommendation:
2.1 The Board is asked to note for discussion at the meeting.

3. Report Body:
<p>3.1 In the initial wave the Council used the emergency response framework to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and the related emergency structures and response working. In summer 2020 Birmingham published the local outbreak management plan based on national framework for the response to the acute covid pandemic to supplement the emergency response plans. The LOMP was refreshed in the spring of 2021.</p> <p>3.2 The Council formally stood down the emergency response to the pandemic in August 2021 however there continues to be a significant response needed to contain and respond to the spread of Covid-19 in the community given the high numbers of unvaccinated individuals. Therefore as the pandemic moves into a new phase there is a need to review and develop a new approach to living safely with Covid-19.</p> <p>3.3 The development of a new Living with Covid-19 strategy is needed to set out clearly for partners and the city our on-going response to the pandemic in a non-emergency response phase. Birmingham faces additional challenges in this phase because of its global trade and education base and the international events hosted in the city, including the Commonwealth Games. Therefore the new strategy will span from Winter 2021 to Autumn 2022, by which time it is anticipated that vaccination both domestically and internationally will be established enough to contain the pandemic.</p> <p>3.4 The new strategy will focus primarily on the public health response and is funded through the COMF Funding reserves agreed in the profiling of this ringfenced grant up to the end of September 2022. The strategy will not include the work on Covid-19 recovery and will not include the NHS clinical response.</p>

3.4 Development of the strategy will be based on a rapid internal review of the learning from the last 18 months and the current policy landscape. This will include an initial strategy review to establish the progress made in implementation of the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) and performance of other response interventions; identify any challenges that emerged, the lessons learned and the resilience capacities that enabled the Birmingham response.

3.5 The Board is asked to note the outline of the steps to be undertaken to develop the adaptive and combination strategy for living safely with COVID in the year head, through and beyond the hosting of the Commonwealth Games.

4. Risk Analysis:

Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Actions taken
Delays in commencing the formal strategic review	Low	Low	Desk review of existing Reports have been initiated
Limited evidence and insufficient disaggregation to enable conclusions to be drawn on progress of implementation and	medium	medium	Extraction, transform and load of evidence from different datasets will be deployed to triangulate collated data

5. Annexes

5.1 Draft outline of the actions for the Strategic review and development of the Living with COVID Strategy

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

Justin Varney, Director of Public Health

Iheadi Onwukwe, Consultant in Public Health (Business & Strategy), Test & Trace Team

Annex to Item 9

Approach to Developing the Living safely with COVID Strategy

The Living with Covid Strategy will be developed by drawing on the following key sources:

- Review of implementation of the Local Outbreak Management Plan and the review of the overall Council emergency response to Covid-19
- Engagement with stakeholders and community partners to feedback on the approach
- Engagement and interviews with public health staff within the Council to reflect on the approach used

This review will be completed by the 20th September and a learning report submitted to the October Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

Outline of Living with Covid Strategy

The emerging strategy builds on the local outbreak management plan (LOMP) and sets out the way in which the Council and its strategic partners will continue to respond to the Covid-19 as society moves into a more stable phase. The LOMP remains the escalation plan which will be enacted if there is a significant overwhelming surge in cases and pressure.

The aim of the Living with Covid Strategy is to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on citizens and the City, minimising the loss of life and supporting stability of employment, education and civic society.

The key elements of the Living with Covid Strategy include:

1. Data and Surveillance
2. Prevention
3. Testing
 - a. Symptomatic
 - b. Asymptomatic
4. Contact tracing
5. Outbreak response
6. Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention
7. Vaccination
8. Mortality Risk Minimisation
9. Communication and Engagement
10. Enforcement
11. Governance

The initial draft of the document is being developed for submission for ratification to the October Local Outbreak Engagement Board.