

	<u>Agenda Item: #</u>
Report to:	Local COVID Outbreak Engagement Board
Date:	XX September 2021
TITLE:	ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES AROUND CORONAVIRUS
Organisation	Environmental Health, Neighbourhoods
Presenting Officer	Mark Croxford

Report Type:	Information report
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1. Purpose:

1.1 The report updates the group on the work of Environmental Health to try and control the spread of coronavirus and to encourage others to comply with national advice.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report be noted.

2.2 That the standing agenda item Enforcement Update be removed from the board, subject to the re-introduction of any emergency Coronavirus control legislation.

3. Report Body

3.1 Following the last update to the Board, nearly all the emergency coronavirus legislation has been revoked. As a result, both West Midlands Police and Birmingham's Environmental Health team have little in the way of powers that can be enforced to control the spread of coronavirus. There is therefore no actions to report to Board.

3.2 Environmental Health have maintained a watching brief as we have limited powers under the Health and Safety @ Work etc Act 1974 and the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. However, the guidance given by government to encourage outdoor events and support a transition to "business as usual" means that only where there is an extreme issue e.g. an outbreak, would we now invoke these powers.

3.3 Consequently, at this stage Environmental Health have moved to a stance of only providing comments and giving advice. This is reflected in our partnership working with WMP who have moved to an education stance initially but without powers to enforce have moved back to business as usual.

3.4 There was a national consultation via the Directors of Public Health on the retention of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations 2020. These were the powers to restrict the number of people in a venue and or close the venue. Your officers have advised Birmingham's Director of Public Health we would like to see these powers retained until after the Commonwealth Games and that these would probably only be used in outbreak situations. These were very effective in the early lockdowns and are the most important powers we think we should retain, particularly as they can only be used by enforcement officers after consultation with the relevant Director of Public Health.

4. Risk Analysis

Further delay in publication. Changes suggested at presentations.

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
None identified			

Appendices

None

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

Mark Croxford Head of Environmental Health
23rd September 2021