

Covid-19 Decision Log – 20.04.2021

Item No	Key Decision	Decision Maker	Decision	Reason for decision	Total Value of the decision and Budget Implication (500k revenue or 1 mill capital)	Are 2 or more Wards Impacted?	Date of Decision	Members briefed
1.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	The decision has been made to actively run down the remaining emergency food supplies that are left over from the initial national lockdown when the council had to provide emergency food to residents that were shielding. The remaining food (for approximately 1,000 food parcels) will be distributed to vulnerable citizens and foodbanks across Birmingham by The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS).	The council has found alternate mechanisms to ensure residents identified as CEV and asked to shield have access to food, so this emergency food supply is no longer required. There is a cost to the council to store the food, and to reactively manage the stock, dispersing items to charities and food banks as items near their use by dates.	This decision represents a cashable saving in storage costs, which are current paid for out of the Test & Trace budget.	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
2.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	Funding of 9 contract / fixed-term post in the PPE and LFD Logistics team at a total cost for 12 months of £429,193. This covers 3 existing posts and 6 additional posts. These 6 additional posts are to replace existing council staff on secondment or redeployment to the PPE team where those seconded staff will need to return to their substantive posts as services restart in line with the latest government roadmap.	Feedback from Public Health England (PHE), via the Director of Public Health for Birmingham City Council (Dr Justin Varney), is that while infection rates are falling and vaccinations rates continue to rise, the expectation is that we will still be dealing with the impact of the pandemic for the remainder of FY21/21 and potentially into the first half of FY22/23.	£429,193 for 12 months All costs will come from the Test & Trace budget	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
3.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	Funding of a team to develop and deliver a building re-opening programme at a total cost for 12 months of £204,072. This new team will co-ordinate the work of various council service that own and operate buildings that constitute the council's Operational Estate (rather than the CAB estate, which is being managed by the New Ways of Working (NWOW) programme and HR).	Testing is expected to continue, with the expectation being that it will become a gateway to accessing activities. New variants will create an on-going background threat of moving back to rapid restrictions to control spread and the potential need for booster vaccinations.	£204,072 for 12 months All costs will come from the Test & Trace budget	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
4.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	The extension of 5 existing CRG roles and the funding of 3 additional roles, at a total cost for 12 months of £679,640. These roles form the core management and support team that coordinate the work of CRG and the Covid related activities now being delivered by the individual directorates following the disbanding of the emergency response 'cell' structure.	Although the council is still operating in an emergency, CLT agreed in January 2021 to transfer the majority the council's Covid related activities into individual Directorates. The Coordination and Response Group (CRG) was setup to support this transfer, to oversee Covid related activities within and between Directorates and to deliver specific aspects of the response that did not naturally fit within Directorates. Examples of the activities that sit with CRG include the LFD testing programme and the sourcing and supply of PPE.	£679,640 for 12 months All costs will come from the Test & Trace budget	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care

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5.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	The continued funding of 4 Service Manager post and the funding of a new LFD Training Lead post, at a total cost for 12 months of £336,799. These posts are required to support the council's Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing strategy, including our surge response in the event of a Variant of Interest or Variant of Concern being identified.	As the country begins to emerge from the last lockdown, council services will restart and buildings, some of which may have been closed for all of the last 12 months, will be expected to re-open. Co-ordinating this activity across all the relevant services that have buildings making up the operational estate will also fall to CRG.	£336,799 for 12 months All costs will come from the Test & Trace budget	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
6.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	The continued funding of agency staff who manage and operate the council's fixed LFD testing sites. Funding was approved to staff a maximum of 12 testing sites, although CRG were asked to work with Public Health to review the staff numbers and associated cost forecast over the next 12 months.	The majority of CRG staff are temporary, agency staff. While this is beneficial when it comes to flexibility of resourcing, the risk is that these temporary staff do not feel as committed to the council as permanent employees and that we could lose key staff at very short notice. This is what led to the recommendation that we explore the option to move key staff on to fixed-term contracts.	All costs will come from the Test & Trace budget	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
7.	Yes	Director of Neighbourhoods	To move key posts within the CRG structure to fixed-term posts, rather than temporary roles. This will help reduce the risk of key staff leaving at short notice, which would have a detrimental impact of the council's ability to respond at pace to new asks. In	Given the projections from PHE about the likely duration of the council's Covid response, CLT ask CRG to propose a model that supported this continued response, was sustainable over the projected timeframe and had the flexibility to adapt to the changing situation, including responding to new asks.	All costs will come from the Test & Trace budget	Yes	10.03.2021	Cabinet Member Adults Health & Social Care
8.	Yes	Director Digital & Customer Services	The request is to fund additional temporary posts and backfill for 6 months to allow both emergency response work and ongoing improvement to be progressed. The Contact Centre and IT&D have been at the forefront of supporting the city's COVID response developing solutions to help services operate differently and to aid emergency activity. In order to address this, additional staffing resource (as outlined in section 3) is required to reduce the pressure on capacity and mitigate against some of the single points of failure and bottlenecks which have been created.	To avoid over reliance on key staff and create potential bottle necks or delays it has been agreed to fund additional specialist capacity. Not doing so would run the risk of delaying the ability to provide IT solutions required to support the safe re-opening of Council Services or to support emergency response arrangements. In addition, the resilience of the service to respond to additional requests e.g. taking on additional outbound calling exercises to vulnerable individuals or to businesses would be put at risk.	Additional IT&D staff required Fixed Term contracts £262k for 6-month placement. Additional Customer Support Staff Fixed Term contracts £116k for a 6-month placement.	Yes	17.03.2021	Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones