

Living with Covid

4 March 2021



Summary

- We are going to be living with Covid for many years
- We will need to maintain a series of Covid defences: these are best led and delivered locally as part of a national system
- There is a wide range of plausible scenarios depending on the evolution of the virus and the success of control measures
- Principle is 'Hope for the best; plan for the worst'
- We will need to manage impacts arising from the pandemic and the response, on the Council and on wider society
- We want to generate debate about the challenges and opportunities and build consensus
- We have discussed the issues at Cabinet, and our Covid-19 Member Led Local Outbreak Control Board and intend a discussion across the wider public sector at a dedicated event
- We will use the outputs to inform our strategic planning

Local Covid defences



Testing, contact tracing, isolation and outbreak management



Covid security



Covid vaccination



Support for the most vulnerable (CEV and other high risk)

Public engagement and communication supported by behavioural science

Scenarios

Best case

- Population immunity achieved and sustained
- Vaccine can be reformulated in response to emergence of new strains
- Covid defences reduce circulation of virus to background levels with occasional outbreak
- Societal restrictions can be lifted without pressure on NHS

Optimistic

- Partial population immunity achieved but uptake and effectiveness of vaccine suboptimal
- New strains partially compromise immunity
- Covid defences insufficient to keep virus at background levels – likely resurgences during winter
- Low level societal restrictions imposed seasonally
- Ongoing impact on well-being and economy

Pessimistic

- Limited population immunity achieved with uptake and/or effectiveness of vaccine poor
- New strains significantly compromise immunity
- Covid defences insufficient to control the virus with ongoing circulation
- Ongoing societal restrictions imposed
- Significant health and economic impact

Management of impacts



Our People



Our Operating Model



Digital

Impacts on the Council

- **Our people:** opportunity to encourage and reward staff for continuing to work flexibly; need to protect staff well-being
- **Operating model:** likely to see an ongoing shift online and a reduction in estates
- **Digital:** opportunities to facilitate access to services and communication between staff
- **Demand:** for public services is highly unpredictable and may increase
- **Funding:** required for Covid defences, increases in demand, to support care providers and businesses, and to mitigate reductions in income
- **Future of Public Sector:** pandemic has accelerated partnership working and demonstrated case for devolution



Demand



Funding



Future of Public Sector

Management of impacts



Economy

Impacts on wider society

Economy: 'face to face' businesses will continue to see bottom line affected by reduced demand and Covid security

Education and learning: lost learning to recover and potential challenges for universities

Health and well-being: pandemic has damaged quality of life; mental health problems are rising; social and lifestyle determinants of health deteriorating

Climate change: benefit from reduced road traffic and emissions; questions about sustainability of public transport

Communities: we have seen a surge in volunteering and there is an opportunity to harness this longer term

Social cohesion: more pessimistic scenarios may see a tension between protecting the NHS and returning freedoms and livelihoods



Climate Change



Education &
Learning



Communities



Health and
Wellbeing



Social Cohesion

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