



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

An Extraordinary Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held virtually on **THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 9 December 2020

Note: The Council has made arrangements under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to hold this meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting can be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/KZEFwDY56yl>

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business

Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

John Halsall	Leader of the Council
John Kaiser	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Housing
Parry Bath	Environment and Leisure
UllaKarin Clark	Children's Services
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Regeneration
Pauline Jorgensen	Highways and Transport
Charles Margetts	Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services
Stuart Munro	Business and Economic Development
Gregor Murray	Resident Services, Communications and Emissions
Wayne Smith	Planning and Enforcement

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
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57.

APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence

58.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest

59.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To answer any public questions

A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.

The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the item included on this agenda only.

Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can only relate to an item which is on the agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions

60.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any member questions

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted on the item included on this agenda.

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply

Matters for Consideration

61. None Specific

ADULTS SOCIAL CARE COVID-19 RESPONSE

5 - 10

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices (in Democratic Services and the General Office) and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

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TITLE	Adults Social Care COVID-19 Response
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday, 17 December 2020
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Adult Social Care and Health - Matt Pope
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services - Charles Margetts

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

This report seeks to gain agreement to a supplementary estimate to support the Council's response to COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive:

- 1) agree the supplementary estimate, in support of the Council's response to COVID-19, of up to £500,000;
- 2) notes that work has already started in preparation and funding for this has been released by the Deputy Chief Executive (CFO) under emergency powers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September and October, the COVID-19 virus spread rapidly in all parts of the country. The government responded with new national restrictions which was replaced on the 2nd December with a regionally-differentiated approach, where different tiers of restrictions apply in different parts of the country.

Returning to the Tier system, which allows for greater household mixing, increases the need for a concerted effort by all residents to follow government guidance in order to prevent a rise in community transmission rates.

To support our continued response to the pandemic, as we move out of the national restrictions, Adults Social Care is seeking a supplementary estimate of (up to) £500K. Funding to be released by the Deputy Chief Executive (CFO) in conjunction with the Director for Adult Social Care. This funding will support a number of initiatives across the Council including;

- Lateral Flow Testing; Care home visitors
- Contact tracing capacity
- COVID-19 vaccination programme

As the Council moves towards a new-normal, resources previously redeployed to Adults Social Care will need to return to their substantive roles. This will allow for some libraries and leisure facilities to partially reopen. Whilst this supports our communities to return to

a remanence of normality, and supports our wellbeing agenda, it will place additional pressure on our efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus.

This is an urgent decision as set out in paragraph 6.3.35 of the Council Constitution and therefore call-in provisions will not apply for this decision. The reason for the urgency is that any delay in the utilisation of these additional resources would seriously prejudice the public's interest. The Mayor has given his consent to the urgency provision and the matter will be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

BACKGROUND

In September and October, the COVID-19 virus spread rapidly in all parts of the country. The government responded with new national restrictions which was replaced on the 2nd December with a regionally-differentiated approach, where different tiers of restrictions apply in different parts of the country.

These tiers have been strengthened, compared to the previous tiers, in order to prevent a return to growing infections. Only a small number of local authorities have been placed in the lowest tier and Wokingham Borough Council is a Tier 2 local authority. This is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place. Tiers are reviewed by the government weekly.

The weekly rates of COVID 19 cases are responsive to the public health restrictions that are in place. During the November period of lockdown Wokingham Borough saw weekly rates decrease from a peak of 154.9 per 100,000 people, to 132.7 per 100,000 (as at 9/12/2020).

Returning to the Tier system, which allows for greater household mixing, increases the need for a concerted effort by all residents to follow government guidance in order to prevent a rise in community transmission rates. Significant work is being undertaken to develop the delivery of rapid tests within the Borough, provide a local case contacting service and to support the roll out of vaccination, however these areas of work will have a lead in time before they can be expected to have an impact on the population case rate. Concerted public health efforts across the Local Authority will need to be maintained through this period.

BUSINESS CASE

To support our continued response to the pandemic, as we move out of the national restrictions, Adults Social Care is seeking a supplementary estimate of (up to) £500K. This funding will predominately support additional staffing for a number of initiatives across the Council including;

- Lateral Flow Testing; Care home visiting
- Contact tracing capacity
- COVID-19 vaccination programme

Lateral Flow Testing: Care homes visitors

Rapid-turnaround Lateral Flow Tests have been provided to enable local teams to direct and deliver community testing based on local knowledge. Wokingham Borough Council can request lateral flow devices to be used to test priority groups.

Proactively testing asymptomatic individuals will help identify those who unknowingly have the virus and enable those who test positive and their contacts to self-isolate. This is crucial to break the chains of transmission of the virus. With lower rates of transmission, those at highest risk from the virus will be more protected and residents will feel more confident in getting back to their day-to-day lives.

It is proposed that additional funding is utilised to support the rollout of a local pilot to support local care homes with their Lateral Flow Testing. Visiting is a central part of care home life. It is crucially important for maintaining health and wellbeing and quality of life for residents. Visiting is also vital for family and friends to maintain contact and life-long relationships with their loved ones and contribute to their support and care.

Under Tier 2, visits to care homes can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. The government has announced that regular testing will be offered to up to two family members or friends per resident by Christmas, which – when combined with other infection-control measures such as PPE and Perspex screens – will support indoor visits and very limited physical contact.

Contact tracing capacity

Case Tracing is a local scheme that is part of the wider NHS Test and Trace service. If residents receive notification of a positive COVID test result, NHS Test and Trace will attempt to contact residents to identify who they have been in contact with, and subsequently advise them that they need to self-isolate. If the NHS Test and Trace service cannot make contact with the WBC resident, this data is passed to WBC's local case tracing team. Local and national performance in Wokingham is strong. The contact tracing success rate in Wokingham Borough is currently 90%.

The data is received 7 days a week, the national data is cleansed by WBC's Data Cell and local intelligence used to support successful contact tracing, it is then passed to a member of the WBC's local contact tracing team to make contact via telephone call in the first instance. If repeat telephone calls are unsuccessful within 24 hours, this passes to the face to face team, so that a visit to the residents known address can be made instead.

It is proposed that additional funding is utilised to support the continuation of the Local Case Tracing service and develop a further element of self-isolation support through early contact, intervention to aid compliance.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

In the UK, there are two types of COVID-19 vaccine to be used once they are approved. They both require two doses to provide the best protection. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), an independent expert group, has recommended that the NHS offers these vaccines first to those at highest risk of catching the infection and of suffering serious complications if they catch the infection. This includes older adults, frontline health and social care workers, care home residents and staff, and those with certain clinical conditions. When more vaccine becomes available, the vaccines will be offered to other people at risk as soon as possible.

To date, Wokingham has been allocated a limited number of vaccination for care home residents and staff. This is a programme being led by the NHS, supported by the local authority. As the programme starts to extended and expanded, and as more vaccines become available, could be asked to provide additional support to our partners and this will require additional resource to manage and coordination the programme locally.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

As the Council moves towards a new-normal, resources previously redeployed to Adults Social Care will need to return to their substantive roles. This will allow for some libraries and leisure facilities to partially reopen. Whilst this supports our communities to return to a remanence of normality, and supports our wellbeing agenda, it will place additional pressure on our efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus.

The funding provided will support the Council to meet the programmes identified above.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Up to £500,000		Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other Financial Information
None

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation
None

Public Sector Equality Duty
Due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken.

Climate Emergency – <i>This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030</i>
Not applicable

List of Background Papers
None

Contact Matt Pope	Service Adult Social Care
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