

TITLE	Wokingham Outbreak Control Plan Summary
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday, 30 July 2020
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive - Susan Parsonage
LEAD MEMBER	Leader of the Council - John Halsall

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

This report is to inform the Executive about the requirement for the council to produce an outbreak control plan jointly with Public Health England and the Strategic Director of Public Health by the end of June 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive:

- 1) note the scale of preparation in a short time scale to develop an outbreak control plan jointly with Public Health England and other partners;
- 2) comment on the impact of the plan for the public.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local authorities have a key role in managing Covid-19 locally and as such the government, through Public Health England, has required each upper tier local authority in England to create an Outbreak Control Plan.

The Outbreak Control Plan details the Council's actions to Prevent, Monitor and React to local outbreaks of Covid19.

The Outbreak Control Plan has 7 themes:

- Care Settings and Schools
- High Risk Workplaces, Communities and Localities
- Mobile Testing Units & Local Testing Approaches
- Contact Tracing in Complex Settings
- Data Integration
- Vulnerable People
- Local Boards

The Outbreak Control Plan was published on the 30th June to enable the Council to meet the requirements set by the Government.

The Outbreak Control Plan is supported by detailed operational plans for likely scenarios that we have identified from utilising local knowledge.

The deadline has been challenging but in the creation of the place we have engaged with the Leader, Public Health Berkshire, Public Health England, members of the Voluntary Sector, Towns and Parish Councils and members of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Outbreak Control Plan is a living document and will be updated as the situation evolves and new evidence emerges on the best way to prevent and react to outbreaks.

BACKGROUND

The Council has a unique responsibility to lead and co-ordinate action to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks and spread as the country reduces lockdown measures. This follows government guidance issued in May.

The scale of corona virus on the Wokingham population both cases and deaths has been just below the England average. This is reported weekly on the council website.

The virus is still circulating although at significantly reduced levels. As the country reduces lockdown, particularly from 4th July, we need to be ready to identify and manage outbreaks as emergency responses to reduce the spread of the virus.

The Council has a robust care homes outbreak plan. This plans extends to schools and all high risk places.

The plan incorporates prevention of outbreaks, management of outbreaks as they occur, and how the Council will communicate with the public.

The plan will change as we learn more about coronavirus spread, national policy changes and learning from outbreaks in other parts of the country.

The Council has been given a further £499k to support outbreak planning. This might not be enough if we are required to deal with multiple complex outbreaks and need to scale up our immediate response to outbreaks and support Public Health England with contact tracing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£499k	No Unknown at present This is a worldwide pandemic and we are preparing for managing outbreaks. There might be additional costs for expanding contact tracing.	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	unknown	unknown	
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Unknown	unknown	

Other Financial Information
As lockdown reduces we have planned for the prevention and management of outbreaks with increased staffing resources to support this. The scale of potential outbreak response is unknown.

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation
The plan has been jointly agreed between the Local Authority, Strategic Director of Public Health and Public Health England.
A Berkshire West Health Protection Board has been established to oversee the development of the outbreak plans and to scrutinise outbreak plans from all parts of the system. The NHS is a key partner on this board.

Public Sector Equality Duty
Due regard is being taken of this duty by analysing patterns of Covid-19 by age, sex, vulnerability and ethnicity.

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>
The impact of lockdown on climate change indicators has been significant such as reduced travel. The outbreak plan itself does not address climate change.

List of Background Papers
Wokingham Outbreak Control Plan Summary

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