



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	COVID-19 Emergency Planning Update (February 2021)	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Corporate Management Team: 19th January 2021	X
	Leader and Deputy Leaders: 25th January 2021	X
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group / Independent Alliance Advisory Group: 3rd & 4th February 2021	X
	Cabinet: 15th February 2021	
	Scrutiny Audit and Value for Money Council Services Committee Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee	



Is this an Executive Decision:	NO	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is this in the Forward Plan:	NO	Is the Report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:			

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Monitoring Officer: **Angela Wakefield**

Date Signature

Chief Finance Officer: **Sal Khan**

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Cabinet

Date: 15th February 2021

**REPORT TITLE: COVID-19 Emergency Planning Update
(February 2021)**

PORTFOLIO: Leader of the Council

HEAD OF SERVICE: Sal Khan

**CONTACT OFFICER: James Abbott (Corporate & Commercial Manager)
Ext. No. x1244**

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Non-Specific

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide senior officers and Members an update on the latest situation and associated response in East Staffordshire by the Council and its partners to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2. The report includes a backwards looking review of recent response activities considering all relevant aspects of the response including considerations regarding: People & Processes; Service Changes & Communications; Community & Partners; and Finances.
- 1.3. The report also sets out a framework for recovery considering contributions from National, County, Borough and Ward levels.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Council and its partners continue to act effectively in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency.
- 2.2. The response has been summarised in this report by considering the themes of: People and Processes; Service Changes and Communications; Community and Partners; and Finances.

2.3. It has been necessary for the Council to plan for and react to a range of challenges and pressures that have arisen as a result of the pandemic, however **throughout the response to the COVID-19 situation critical services have continued.**

2.3.1. In addition to the ongoing response work, a recovery framework has been developed capturing and overlaying National, County, Borough and Ward level recovery work.

3. Background

3.1. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of coronavirus disease COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11th March 2020.

3.2. To delay the spread of the virus the Government has made [a range of announcements implementing a range of measures on social distancing](#), and the Council has responded accordingly to ensure the operation of its facilities and services align to the current guidance and / or restrictions.

3.3. By law, category one responders (which includes all local authorities) have duties to plan and prepare for emergencies. Planning for civil emergencies and ensuring continuity of its own services is therefore a fundamental and ongoing element of East Staffordshire Borough Council's normal operation. The Council has a range of resilience plans in place to mitigate the impact of any emergency incident, for example service specific business continuity plans. It is also part of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum (SRF) which is made up of multiple agencies who work together to plan and prepare for localised incidents and civil emergencies.

3.4. The SRF has facilitated a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) with effect from 10th March 2020 including senior representatives of all relevant responders and partners, for example local authorities, the emergency "blue-light" services, Public Health England, MHCLG, the military, the NHS, local hospitals and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Reporting to the SCG are a number of subgroups co-ordinating the tactical response, each with a focus on specific areas of the response.

3.5. In addition to the SCG the SRF is also facilitating with effect from 24th April 2020 a Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG). This group is working in parallel to the SCG, and will support partners, communities and stakeholders to deliver the recovery activity associated with COVID-19.

4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

4.1. This report contributes to all three Corporate Priorities as it is relevant to all Council services.

5. COVID-19 Emergency Planning Update (February 2021)

5.1. Response Phase Latest Update

5.1.1. It has been necessary for the Council to plan for and react to a range of challenges and pressures that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however **throughout the response to the COVID-19 situation critical services have continued.**

5.1.2. The incident continues to have an impact with “normal” business being affected. However the response is being managed at this time through the activation of local contingency plans and coordinated corrective action. Requests for mutual aid have not been necessary.

5.1.3. The response can be summarised by considering the following themes:

Community and Partners (C&P)	Service Changes and Communications (SC&C)
People and Processes (P&P)	Finances (F)

5.1.4. The following table provides a summary overview of the Council’s direct response to these challenges, with full detail on this response, along with an outlook moving forward, provided in the subsequent sections of this report.

Response Summary

Community and Partners (para 5.1.5)

- On 30th December 2020 it was confirmed that with effect from 31st December 2020 Staffordshire would move to Tier 4 and “Stay at Home” restrictions. Subsequently it was announced on 4th January 2021 that the UK would go into another national “lockdown”. These latest national restrictions took effect from 5th January 2021.
- Burton Town Hall is currently the base for a Local Testing Station (LTS). Testing began on Tuesday 6th October, catering for ‘walk in’ symptomatic cases and be self-contained with demarcated entrances and exits. This must be booked online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- Every week the County Council, along with the Borough Council, has continued to review the number of cases of COVID-19 and identify hotspots with the highest numbers of infections in the previous 2 weeks. People in these areas are advised to take extra care to stop the spread of the virus. The County Council are now offering asymptomatic testing to everyone in Staffordshire, especially targeting those who still need to be out during lockdown.
- Over the weekend of 30th / 31st January 2021, the Council temporarily suspended parking charges on Trinity car park in Uttoxeter to aid the Balance Street GP practice in administering the vaccine to residents. Uttoxeter Leisure Centre car parking charges will also be suspended to support ongoing Covid-19 testing at the leisure centre on 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th and 26th February 2021.
- Two businesses in Burton upon Trent have been served prohibition notices for breaching COVID-19 business closure regulations.

People and Processes (para 5.1.7)

- As of 1st February 2021 the Council has 291 employees including casual staff. The Council has had a total of 88 absences due to employees or their family members/close contacts reporting COVID-19 symptoms. 9 employees are currently absent, plus 2 agency workers.
- The Full Licensing Committee considered a second request from the Burton Taxi Trade to extend the licences of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles following issues brought about by the COVID19 pandemic. The Committee approved an extension to private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences that reach the 7/10 year age limit for a period of 4 months.
- A cross-government Regulatory Services Task and Finish Group has prioritised regulatory services activities to help support local authority decision-making during the response to coronavirus. The Council’s Environmental Health team will continue to focus on COVID work and other high priority areas as identified by the group.
- An initial COVID Marshal presence was active within the Borough from 6th November. Our COVID Marshals are employed in a customer-facing ambassadorial role that will help residents and visitors with advice on the national guidance on COVID-19, including social distancing and the wearing of face masks where appropriate.

Service Changes and Communications (para 5.1.6)

- The Customer Service Centre in Burton closed from Thursday 5th November 2020. The Customer Service Centre in Uttoxeter remains closed. All enquiries normally dealt with face to face are being managed by telephone, email, through the Council website or post.
- In accordance with COVID-19 restrictions, Burton Market Hall at the end of normal operational hours on 30th December 2020 has closed. Only essential shops and stalls will be available for collections and takeaway. Essential stalls are available on the outdoor market between Thursday and Saturday.
- The Brewhouse closed from Thursday 5th November and has remained closed under Tier 3 restrictions and (depending on the review of tiers on 16th December) will be looking to reopen to the public in the New Year. In the meantime, the building is being used as a town centre base for Covid Marshals. Despite being closed, the Brewhouse Arts Centre have announced a number of online activities and shows for families this February Half Term.
- With effect from 31st December 2020 the Greenhouse and Horticultural Centre, all outdoor sports facilities and outdoor gym facilities closed in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions. Parks, including children’s play areas, remain open.
- Everyone Active closed the 3 leisure centres at the end of normal operational hours on 30th December 2020.

Finances (para 5.1.8)

- The Council (as of 29th January 2021) has:
 - Awarded £255,335.42 worth of Nursery Discount Relief to 21 Nurseries.
 - Awarded £20,377,471.35 of Expanded Retail Discount relief to 823 qualifying business ratepayers.
 - Paid £429,896.80 in Council Tax Hardship Fund payments to 3,257 working age Council Tax payers (we are waiting for Capita to provide assistance in increasing the funding from the mandatory £150 limit to £200).
 - Paid £205,000 in Test and Trace Support Payments to 410 successful applicants; 326 under the main scheme and 84 under the discretionary scheme.
 - Paid £5,267,685 in Local Restrictions Support Grants to local businesses (see para 5.1.8.9 for a further breakdown)
- The Council has currently been allocated £1.893m of Central government support following the allocations of the fourth tranche of COVID-19 funding (£443,243) announced on 22nd October.
- The Council has applied for £220,996 of Sport England funding to support the leisure contract partnership with Sports & Leisure Management (SLM). The National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRF) is a Government grant that provides Local Authorities with financial aid for their outsourced leisure contracts. A decision on the outcome of the application is expected by late February.

5.1.5. Community and Partners

- 5.1.5.1. On Monday 12th October the Government announced a [new three tiered system of local COVID-19 Alert Levels](#). Staffordshire was initially placed in the “Medium” tier.
- 5.1.5.2. It was subsequently announced on 27th October 2020 that Staffordshire would shortly be moving from the “Medium” alert level into the “High” alert level with effect from 31st October 2020.
- 5.1.5.3. Furthermore on 31st October 2020 Government announced new national restrictions to be implemented with effect from 5th November 2020. Subsequently from 2nd December 2020 a local restriction tier system was implemented by Government. Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent was placed in the Tier 3 “Very High” alert level.
- 5.1.5.4. On 30th December 2020 it was confirmed that with effect from 31st December 2020 Staffordshire would move to Tier 4 and “Stay at Home” restrictions.
- 5.1.5.5. Subsequently it was announced on 4th January 2021 that the UK would go into another national “lockdown”. These [latest national restrictions](#) took effect from 5th January 2021.
- 5.1.5.6. These changes in restrictions and guidance led to a number of service changes as summarised in paragraph 5.1.6.2.
- 5.1.5.7. As part of the ongoing COVID-19 response, the main Town Hall (Civic Function Suite side of the building) is currently the base for a Local Testing Station (LTS). Testing began on Tuesday 6th October, catering for ‘walk in’ symptomatic cases and be self-contained with demarcated entrances and exits. The main Town Hall staff entrance will be unaffected. This must be booked online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.
- 5.1.5.8. Every week the County Council, along with the Borough Council, has continued to review the number of cases of COVID-19 and identify hotspots with the highest numbers of infections in the previous 2 weeks. People in these areas are advised to take extra care to stop the spread of the virus.
- 5.1.5.9. Staffordshire is to increase testing of residents in a bid to identify more cases, reduce the spread of infection and protect lives and livelihoods. By widening the offer of testing, the County can identify more people who have the virus and need to self-isolate, which in turn stops the spread of infection and reduces the number of cases. The County Council are now offering asymptomatic testing to everyone in Staffordshire, especially targeting those who still need to be out during lockdown. Residents who need to be out and about in East Staffordshire during the lockdown are being urged to have regular Covid-19 tests, even if they don’t have symptoms. There is a community test centre in each district or borough open seven days a week. There are also pop-up testing centres at various locations providing additional opportunities for residents to get a rapid test, all as part of the testing blitz to help tackle

increasing COVID-19 cases. The move aims to tackle the “silent spreaders”, people who carry the virus but have no symptoms.

5.1.5.10. The NHS in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has commenced rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, with many over 80s, care home staff and residents and at risk health and care staff having already received the vaccine. Over the coming weeks more at risk people will be invited to come forward as the supply of the vaccine increases.

5.1.5.11. Queen’s Hospital in Burton launched as a hospital hub offering the vaccine to frontline health and care workers on 19th January 2021. The first of the large vaccination sites, located in Tunstall opened on Monday 25th January 2021. A second large community vaccination site opened on 1st February in Stafford.

5.1.5.12. The Council continues to work with partners to support the roll out of Covid-19 vaccinations and testing arrangements. Over the weekend of 30th / 31st January 2021, the Council temporarily suspended parking charges on Trinity car park in Uttoxeter to aid the Balance Street GP practice in administering the vaccine to residents. Moving forward, Uttoxeter Leisure Centre car parking charges will also be suspended to support ongoing Covid-19 testing at the leisure centre. These dates have been confirmed as; 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th and 26th February 2021.

5.1.5.13. Two businesses in Burton upon Trent have been served prohibition notices for breaching COVID-19 business closure regulations. The Council’s Environmental Health Team were alerted to a tanning salon and a car showroom that were continuing to operate, despite lockdown restrictions requiring the businesses to be closed. Both businesses were instructed to close immediately and served with a Prohibition Notice for breaching regulations by remaining open.

5.1.6. Service Changes and Communications

5.1.6.1. A number of enforced changes following direct instruction issued by Government have been necessary, as well as the Council also implementing a number of service changes to effectively respond to the emergency at a local level. However throughout the response to the COVID-19 situation, critical services have continued.

5.1.6.2. Following the announcement on 30th December 2020 that further restrictions were to be implemented with effect from 31st December 2020 and the move into Tier 4 restrictions, a number of service changes have been required, as detailed below:

Facility	Service Impact
Customer Service Centres (CSCs) in Burton and Uttoxeter	The Customer Service Centre in Burton closed from Thursday 5 th November 2020. The Customer Service Centre in Uttoxeter remains closed. All enquiries normally dealt with face to face are being managed by telephone, email, through the Council website or post.

Facility	Service Impact
Burton Market Hall and Outdoor Market	In accordance with COVID-19 restrictions, Burton Market Hall at the end of normal operational hours on 30 th December 2020 has closed. Only essential shops and stalls will be available for collections and takeaway. Essential stalls are available on the outdoor market between Thursday and Saturday.
Brewhouse Arts Centre	The Brewhouse closed from Thursday 5 th November and has remained closed under Tier 3 restrictions and (depending on the review of tiers on 16 th December) will be looking to reopen to the public in the New Year. In the meantime, the building is being used as a town centre base for Covid Marshals. Despite being closed, the Brewhouse Arts Centre have announced a number of online activities and shows for families this February Half Term.
Open Spaces	With effect from 31 st December 2020 the Greenhouse and Horticultural Centre, all outdoor sports facilities and outdoor gym facilities closed in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions. Parks, including children's play areas, remain open.
Council Leisure Facilities (Meadowside Leisure Centre, Uttoxeter Leisure Centre and Shobnall Leisure Complex), run by Everyone Active	Everyone Active closed the 3 leisure centres at the end of normal operational hours on 30 th December 2020.

5.1.6.3. There is ongoing communications in relation to service changes and related messaging. As well its own messages, the Council has continued to share key communications from other partner organisations, ensuring these important messages are shared as widely as possible. Communications campaigns continue to adapt to reflect changing government guidance.

5.1.7. People and Processes

5.1.7.1. As of 1st February 2021 the Council has 291 employees including casual staff. The Council has had a total of 88 absences due to employees or their family members/close contacts reporting COVID-19 symptoms. 9 employees are currently absent, plus 2 agency workers.

5.1.7.2. The Full Licensing Committee considered a second request from the Burton Taxi Trade to extend the licences of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles following issues brought about by the COVID19 pandemic. The Committee approved an extension to private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences that reach the 7/10 year age limit for a period of 4 months.

5.1.7.3. A cross-government Regulatory Services Task and Finish Group has prioritised regulatory services activities to help support local authority decision-making during the response to coronavirus. The Council's Environmental Health team will continue to focus on COVID work and other high priority areas as identified by the group.

5.1.7.4. An initial COVID Marshal presence was active within the Borough from 6th November. Our COVID Marshals are employed in a customer-facing ambassadorial role that will help residents and visitors with advice on the national guidance on COVID-19, including social distancing and the wearing of

face masks where appropriate. The Marshals provide a visible presence on the streets of East Staffordshire and activities will include identifying locations that make social distancing difficult, cleaning regular touch points and highlighting breaches of the regulations to the appropriate enforcement authority.

5.1.8. Finances

5.1.8.1. A number of schemes have been introduced by the Government in order to support businesses that have been forced to close due to COVID-19 restrictions.

5.1.8.2. **Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (Addendum) Scheme:** This scheme was initially brought in by the Government to provide a business support grant to help businesses that were forced to close due to lockdown restrictions from 5th November to 2nd December. Grants are still available for this scheme.

5.1.8.3. The Government announced a further national lockdown on 5th January 2021, and have decided to provide eligible businesses with a further one-off grant under this scheme of up to £9,000. If a business has received a grant under the closed schemes following the national restrictions on 5th November 2020, we will arrange to make further grant payment automatically without the need for you to re-apply. Any business that has been mandated to close but has not applied for a grant since 5th November 2020 can apply.

5.1.8.4. **Additional Restrictions Grant:** This is discretionary grant available to businesses that are impacted by local and/or national restrictions. The first phase of grant applications was for businesses impacted when the national restrictions came into force on 5th November 2020. The application window for the first phase of the scheme closed on 23rd December 2020. The Government has announced a further Discretionary Scheme for businesses affected by the national lockdown from 5th January 2021. Once guidance is released by the Government the Council will finalise details for the scheme.

5.1.8.5. **Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed):** This is for businesses that are required to close due to the restrictions in place from 2nd December 2020. Businesses that were mandated to close from 5th November and who have made a successful application for the LRSG (Closed) (Addendum) grant will automatically be issued with a grant to cover from 2nd to 15th December and then from 16th to 29th December, providing they remain eligible during those periods.

5.1.8.6. **Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum - Tier 4:** This is for businesses affected by the Tier 4 restrictions announced by the Government on 19th December. We await clarification from the Government as to the amounts of grants available to East Staffordshire businesses from 1st to 4th January 2021.

5.1.8.7. **Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open):** This is for businesses allowed to open from 2nd December 2020, but will be severely impacted by the restrictions in place. We are currently finalising the details for this scheme.

5.1.8.8. **Christmas Support Payment for ‘Wet-Led’ Pubs:** This is for pubs affected by the Tier 3 restrictions for the period 2nd to 29th December 2020, which can show that less than 50% of their income is from food sales. Applications for this grant must be made by 28th February 2021.

5.1.8.9. The Council (as of 29th January) has:

- Awarded £255,335.42 worth of Nursery Discount Relief to 21 Nurseries.
- Awarded £20,377,471.35 of Expanded Retail Discount relief to 823 qualifying business ratepayers.
- Paid £429,896.80 in Council Tax Hardship Fund payments to 3,257 working age Council Tax payers (we are waiting for Capita to provide assistance in increasing the funding from the mandatory £150 limit to £200).
- Paid £205,000 in Test and Trace Support Payments to 410 successful applicants; 326 under the main scheme and 84 under the discretionary scheme.
- Paid £5,267,685 in Local Restrictions Support Grants to local businesses, split as follows:
 - LRSG (Closed) (Addendum) scheme (covering 5th November to 2nd December): £892.624 across 579 successful applicants.
 - Additional Restrictions Grants: £45,016 across 30 successful applicants.
 - LRSG (Closed) (covering 2nd December to 29th December): £364,119 across 583 successful applicants.
 - Christmas Support Payments for wet-led pubs: £37,000 across 37 successful applicants.
 - LRSG (Closed) (Addendum) scheme from 5th January: £1,309,926 across 566 businesses.
 - Closed Business Lockdown Payment (one-off grant): £2,619,000 across 566 businesses

5.1.8.10. The Council has applied for £220,996 of Sport England funding to support the leisure contract partnership with Sports & Leisure Management (SLM). The National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRF) is a Government grant that provides Local Authorities with financial aid for their outsourced leisure contracts. A decision on the outcome of the application is expected by late February.

5.1.8.11. The Government has confirmed councils and the police will equally share the extra [£60 million in funding to help support compliance and enforcement of COVID-19 rules](#). East Staffordshire has been allocated £58,490.

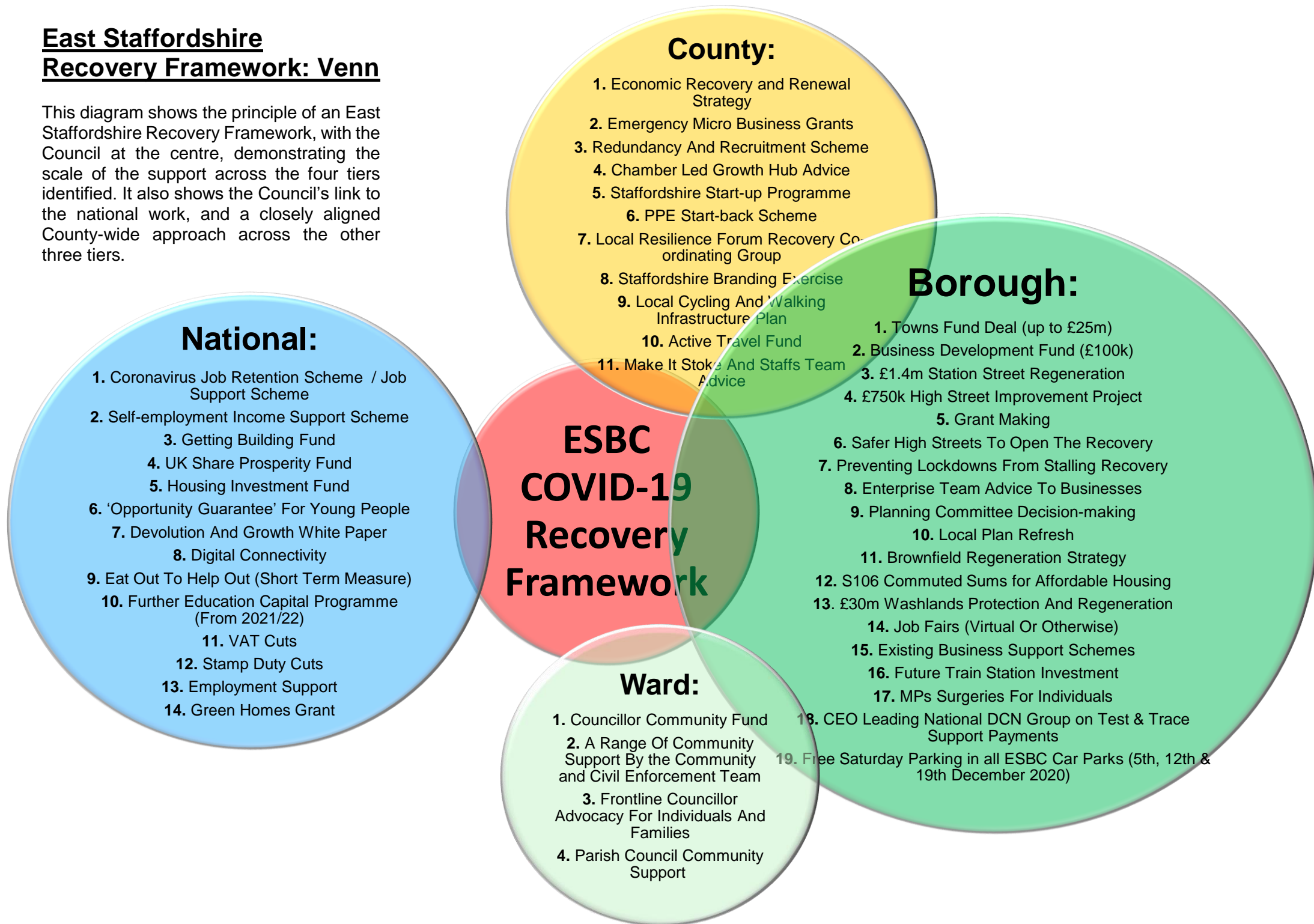
- 5.1.8.12. The Brewhouse Arts Centre has previously been awarded £51,565 as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to help face the challenges of the pandemic.
- 5.1.8.13. The Council is facing significant financial pressures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. These pressures not only include additional costs but also more significantly a reduction to the income levels the Council receives that are used to ensure that funding is available to provide essential services to residents. Central Government has announced several packages of support for local government to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Council has currently been allocated £1.893m following the allocations of the fourth tranche of COVID-19 funding (£443,243) announced on 22nd October.
- 5.1.8.14. The package of support for local government as a whole announced in July provides some additional direct funding to support cost pressures and a scheme of protection against some service income losses. It has also been announced that local authorities will be allowed to spread over three years losses associated with business rates and council tax, and the regulations for this have recently been published. In addition there is a scheme to compensate authorities for 75% of business rates and council tax losses, however this does not cover all of the losses that are incurred.
- 5.1.8.15. The impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy will be extensive and this is being monitored and updated on a regular basis to reflect the most recent information, with the Quarter 2 forecast position presented to Cabinet during December. Within the Spending Review and provisional local government finance settlement announced in December 2020 the Government set out further Covid-19 related financial support for local authorities in relation to 2021/22. However this is not currently sufficient to meet our expected cost and income pressures. The Council's underlying financial position is robust and this provides a strong foundation of financial resilience during these unprecedented circumstances.

5.2. **A Framework for Recovery**

- 5.2.1. A civil emergency can be considered in two distinct phases. "Response" encompasses the actions taken to deal with the immediate effects of an emergency, whereas "Recovery" is the process of rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating following an emergency.
- 5.2.2. As the emergency continues to evolve away from "response" into the "recovery" phase, a recovery framework has been developed capturing and overlaying National, County, Borough and Ward level recovery work.
- 5.2.3. There has been considerable efforts across these tiers on the recovery phase within East Staffordshire. The illustration below sets this out in summary, demonstrating the scope of recovery work.

East Staffordshire Recovery Framework: Venn

This diagram shows the principle of an East Staffordshire Recovery Framework, with the Council at the centre, demonstrating the scale of the support across the four tiers identified. It also shows the Council's link to the national work, and a closely aligned County-wide approach across the other three tiers.



5.2.4. There has been a number of initiatives implemented by Central Government on a national basis which contribute to the recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.

5.2.5. This includes a range of schemes for businesses; opportunities for young people; schemes relating to education and employment; support for homeowners; and temporary changes in taxation (VAT and Stamp Duty).

5.2.6. Information on Government schemes and associated guidance can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

5.2.7. The Council continues to support the communication of Government schemes to residents and businesses within the Borough through an ongoing information campaign via its usual communication channels, such as its social media channels and [website](#).

5.2.8. However it is important to note that there has been significant work within East Staffordshire and the County, in addition to the Council's localised support to the national recovery work. This is detailed fully below with reference to which of the balanced scorecard themes the item primarily contributes to (noting that items may in practice cut across multiple themes):

East Staffordshire Borough Council COVID-19 Recovery Framework

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
County Level		
1. Staffordshire Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a five year strategy aimed at responding to COVID-19 and setting out the County's ambitions for the economic recovery of Staffordshire. It aims include developing and implementing plans to mitigate against COVID-19 impacts; develop plans to refresh and reinstate delivery programmes across the themes of business environment, people, place, infrastructure and ideas; develop plans for new programmes that will support the recovery, renewal and transformation of the local economy. 	C&P

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
2. SCC Emergency Micro Business Grants Scheme (£500k)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This grant fund has now been fully implemented. • This fund launched in April and was targeted at micro businesses that were not eligible for the other forms of Government grant support. 	F
3. SCC Redundancy And Recruitment Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countywide Redundancy Task Group • Redundancy and Recruitment Triage Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Countywide Redundancy Task Group is an operational partnership that was established in June 2020 and aims to improve collaboration and support in responding to redundancy announcements across the County. This shifts the approach from a case-by-case response to a more co-ordinated, consistent response. • The Redundancy and Recruitment Triage Service is free, responsive support offered to businesses who are looking to restructure and to individuals who are at risk of or have been made redundant. This is delivered through the National Careers Service. • 33 businesses across Staffordshire have accessed this service 	P&P
4. Chamber Led Growth Hub Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses are able to access support through either the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub or the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Growth Hub. • The Growth Hubs offer wide ranging support and advise to businesses generally and this has also been tailored to respond to COVID-19 related enquiries. • The Council's Growth Hub Advisor has supported 24 businesses so far throughout the year with 15 of those being supported specifically for COVID-19 related issues 	C&P

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
5. Staffordshire Start-up Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a support programme for people with ambitions to set up their own business and whose existing employment may be at risk due to COVID-19. This is a three year programme aiming to support 200 new start-ups a year, delivered through the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce. 	C&P
6. SCC PPE Start-back Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scheme has now been fully implemented. This scheme supported micro businesses looking to re-open safely by providing free PPE equipment packs for 2,000 businesses. 	C&P
7. Local Resilience Forum Recovery Co-ordinating Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Resilience Forum continues to facilitate (with effect from 24th April 2020) a Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG). Attended by the Council's CEO the RCG supports partners, communities and stakeholders to deliver the recovery activity associated with COVID-19. 	P&P
8. Staffordshire Branding Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire County Council has commissioned place marketing experts ThinkingPlace to conduct detailed research and engagement on the 'place branding' for Staffordshire. This work is aimed to collate views from the public and private sectors to create a brand for Staffordshire that will encourage inward investment and growth in the County. This is in the process of being reported to the County Council. 	SC&C

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
9. Local Cycling And Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being considered in the Stronger Towns work is a number of improvements to Burton's cycling network, bringing forward the majority of the short and medium term proposals in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. • The LCWIP sets out a number of potential improvements to Burton's cycling network that could encourage better connectivity within and around the town, and have associated health and wellbeing benefits. The plan is currently being consulted upon. • This has been included in the Town Investment Plan, which has now been submitted to Government. The proposal focuses on delivering the short and medium term priority interventions. 	C&P
10. Active Travel Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Government announced in May an emergency active travel fund, with Staffordshire County Council receiving an allocation. • SCC are planning improvements in line with their Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan. 	C&P
11. Make It Stoke And Staffs Team Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Make it Stoke and Staffs team provide business support and advice on relocations and new premises within the County. • The team provides advice to those looking to invest in terms of key development sites and commercial property and can provide information on local workforces and economies. 	C&P

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
Borough Level		
1. Towns Fund Deal (up to £25m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burton upon Trent has been selected as one of 100 towns that could benefit from up to £25m in a 5 year grant funding programme aimed at levelling up the town. The funding bid will be made through the Town Investment Plan, to be submitted in December 2020, which will need to take into account the local impact of COVID-19 in proposing interventions that could aid recovery. Potential interventions include the creation of a new pedestrian bridge across the Trent, improvements to road junctions, enhancements in the cycling network, investment in the local education provision, and more. • Consultation ran until 11th October, with around 900 responses. Responses have been considered by the Town Deal Board. Members of the public were able to provide feedback and comments on the town's proposals for projects to be funded by the Government's Towns Fund programme. • The Town Investment Plan was submitted to Government on 11th December and has passed the initial gateway assessment. The outcome of the application will likely be determined late February/early March. Further information can be seen in the executive summary for the investment plan. 	C&P
2. Business Development Fund (£100k)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to March 2019, it was intended that this £100k fund would be implemented in the spring of 2020 aimed at growing micro and small businesses. With the impact of COVID-19 and availability of Government support schemes, this was held back. • It is currently intended that the scheme is implemented in early 2021/22 and is tailored around economic recovery and growth of small businesses, with a particular focus on the safeguarding and creation of jobs. • As part of the process, businesses are required to present their application to a panel. Panel membership is to be confirmed shortly, but it is anticipated this will be made up of Council Members, officers and local business leaders, with the panel meetings being conducted in a virtual setting. 	F

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
3. £1.4m Station Street Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project began shortly before the lockdown in March 2020 and has continued to be delivered throughout this period, largely uninterrupted. This project has now completed, subject to snagging and defects. The transformation of Station Street will create a much more attractive town centre public realm with more appropriate facilities for the neighbouring businesses. The delivery of the project will encourage footfall in the town centre. 	C&P
4. £750k High Street Improvement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council submitted a grant application for Government to utilise an early release of the Towns Fund to continue the Station Street project onto High Street, delivering improvements between Station Street and Market Place. The application was for £750k and has now been approved and Staffordshire County Council are exploring opportunities to add value to the project through additional investment. The project commenced on 4th January 2021 and is being delivered by SCC's delivery partner, Amey, with the project completing in the spring of 2021. 	C&P
5. Grant Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council plays a fundamental role in administering a range of grants and funds that contribute to recovery within the area. These include the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund; Small Business Grant Fund; Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Funding which have been implemented. 	F

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
<p>6. Safer High Streets To Open The Recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council in conjunction with local partners, has facilitated the safe reopening of the Town Centres on 15th June and aids the recovery of the area following the closures. • A range of measures have been installed to ensure that residents and retailers can use key shopping areas safely and give confidence to residents and visitors to the area. • A new ‘Stay Local Shop Safe’ campaign supporting Reopening High Streets Safely was launched in the lead up to Christmas. This included outdoor media but was a predominantly online campaign featuring local business owners and signposting businesses able to operate during ‘lockdown’. • Further initiatives under the ‘Stay Local Shop Safe’ campaign are planned for mid-February / early March, dependant on non-essential retail re-opening. 	<p>C&P</p>

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
<p>7. Preventing Lockdowns From Stalling Recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will continue to work with its partners on preparedness for and prevention of future lockdowns to mitigate the impact on the ongoing recovery of the area, as well as ensuring the recovery process continues should a lockdown occur. The Council continues to take an active role in the strategic response and recovery coordinating groups facilitated through the LRF with its partners. • At a local level the Council will continue to work with SCC, ward members, community leaders etc to reinforce the key messages and develop strategies around social distancing, testing and isolation building on the recent experiences from the engagement within the Anglesey and Shobnall area. • The Environmental Health Team will continue to work with partners to ensure compliance with COVID-19 safety measures and to support the investigation of any outbreaks identified. • The Council will work to support businesses attempt to continue to operate as appropriate during any potential future lockdown to mitigate the impact on the ongoing recovery process, including support relating to any relevant government business grants mitigating the impact of additional restrictions on impacted sectors that may be available. 	<p>SC&C</p>

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
<p>8. Enterprise Team Advice To Businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and support continue to be provided to local businesses through the ongoing activities of the Enterprise Team. • In recent months, this has been tailored to providing advice around responding to COVID-19 and helping businesses to access the relevant support and funding through the appropriate organisations and internal teams (such as Business Rates). • Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the Enterprise Team have continued to have a steady flow of enquiries from local people starting up in business. The Enterprise Team are able to direct them on to the Enterprise for Success scheme which is free to access and businesses also have the option to apply for a small grant once they have completed the programme. • The Team have also continued to support the GBSLEP Business Growth Scheme which offers grants from £10,000 through reviewing applications and remotely attending panel meetings. • SME re-start grants opened through the GBSLEP Growth Hub on 30th September for applications from businesses across East Staffordshire, and are due to close on 9th October. The small grants will be £1,000 - £3,000. Eligible businesses will be able to apply for grants to help them access new technology and other equipment as well as professional, legal, financial or other advice to help them get back on track. Information on eligibility and how to apply is available from https://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk/sme-restart-grant or by calling the helpline on 0800 032 3488 	<p>C&P</p>

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
9. Planning Committee Decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee Decision-making continues to be a vital element in sustaining the economic recovery and development of the Borough while protecting and improving the quality of the environment. • The Council's Planning function will continue to manage development in accordance with the Local Plan while keeping abreast with any changes to planning regulations. It will also continue to review and assess the scheme of delegation to ensure that it enables speedy decision making. 	P&P
10. Local Plan Refresh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has a corporate target to review its Local Plan by October 2020. This review will assess whether there is a need to update the Local Plan. • The review considers a number of factors to determine whether an update is required. An integral factor is whether the Local Plan provide a suitable planning framework which enables sustainable economic growth. • A recommendation was agreed at the October 2020 meeting of Full Council that the update to the Local Plan be delayed for a maximum of 5 years with an annual review carried out, as recommended by the Development Plan Committee 23 September 2020. 	P&P
11. Brownfield Regeneration Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary objective of this strategy is to promote the development of existing brownfield land and infill development sites within the Borough. • Through this strategy, the Council works with developers and landowners to enable and facilitate the redevelopment of previously used land, supporting the regeneration of sites on the Council's brownfield register. • Brownfield land is most commonly found within local centres and so working with developers to bring these forward will not only stimulate the local economy, but it will also create more opportunities for investment as the towns and local centres recover from COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to institutionalise longer term homeworking, which will in turn reduce local office and commercial spaces, increasing the need for the redevelopment of brownfield land before they become derelict. 	C&P

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will be looking at whether the Brownfield Regeneration Strategy requires a refresh during 2021. 	
12. S106 Commuted Sums for Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over a number of years, the Council has collected commuted sums for affordable housing through S106 agreements in lieu of developers providing affordable housing on site. Following the objective of the Brownfield Regeneration Strategy, the Council utilises this ring-fenced funding by meeting development viability gaps in order to facilitate the redevelopment of brownfield land to deliver appropriate affordable housing. Brownfield land is typically harder and more expensive to develop due to the cost of remediating the sites of barriers such as existing structures or land contamination. COVID-19 has impacted developers locally insofar as that housebuilding is currently taking longer, due to social distancing requirements, and there is increased difficulty in sourcing materials. As such, funding viability gaps are likely to increase, making the utilisation of S106 commuted sums all the more crucial in delivering affordable housing locally. 	C&P
13. £30m Washlands Protection And Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has worked closely with the Environment Agency to support the delivery of improvements to Burton's flood defences, including working together to secure LEP grant funding. This includes working with the EA to deliver the Washlands Enhancement Project that will see the Washlands area between Bargates and the Market Place transformed into an attractive, natural public realm space. The flood defence works are on programme to complete by March 2021, with the environmental enhancement work commencing later in 2021 and completing in 2022. The planning application for the Washlands enhancement project has now been submitted. 	C&P

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
14. Job Fairs (Virtual Or Otherwise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council through its Enterprise Team will continue to promote local job opportunities, and delivering job fairs remains a corporate plan objective. Working with the Worklessness Action Group, there have been two virtual jobs fairs delivered. This approach will be reviewed to see how this can be conducted in the coming months to support local businesses and those searching for employment. 	P&P
15. Existing Business Support Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of national business funding and support schemes that were available before COVID-19 can still be accessed by businesses and residents. The Enterprise Team will continue to promote schemes such as the Enterprise for Success support programme and the Business Growth Programme. 	C&P
16. Future Train Station Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Midlands Railway will be investing in Burton and Uttoxeter train stations, looking at initiatives such as enhancing car parking provisions, LED lighting improvements, zero carbon at Uttoxeter station, and cycle schemes. The Campaign for the Reopening of the Ivanhoe Line are continuing to work with the Department for Transport to investigate the feasibility of reopening the train line that would connect Burton with Leicester, through South Derbyshire. 	C&P

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
17. MPs Surgeries For Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local MPs for East Staffordshire are available for residents and businesses to discuss any COVID-19 recovery issues they have, which can then be raised with the Council or relevant partner as necessary. 	P&P
18. CEO Leading National DCN Group on Test & Trace Support Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's CEO has been leading a national District Council Network group on 'Test & Trace Support Payments' to help establish a smooth roll out of this new payments system across district areas. On 12th October the Council implemented the application process for Test and Trace Support Payments in East Staffordshire. Eligible individuals are entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary support payment of £500. 	F
19. Free Saturday Parking in all ESBC Car Parks (5th, 12th & 19th December 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Staffordshire Borough Council previously agreed to waive car parking charges on ALL Council owned car parks on Saturdays; 5th, 12th and 19th December 2020. Saturdays tend to be the busiest shopping days in the run up to Christmas. Waiving parking charges on these specified dates was to encourage more footfall to the towns safely and to provide a boost to our retailers and businesses. This offer was in addition to the "free after 3" parking offer which already offers free parking in the Coopers Square and Burton Place (Lower) car parks in Burton upon Trent and the Maltings car park in Uttoxeter every day after 3pm. 	SC&C

Scheme / Initiative	Detail	Balanced Scorecard Theme
Ward Level		
1. Councillor Community Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2020, the Council's Councillor Community Fund (CCF) re-opened for new applications. Ward Councillors are encouraged to continue to make use of the CCF to support community groups and organisations who are providing assistance to residents during these difficult times. 	F
2. A Range Of Community Support By the Community and Civil Enforcement Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of ward level community support will continue to be provided by the Community and Civil Enforcement Officers. This includes the delivery of Corporate target EHWP20 "Undertake 8 focused initiatives (including fly tipping) across the Borough and deliver at least 6 education programs in local schools", which can be refocused to incorporate COVID-19 related issues 	C&P
3. Frontline Councillor Advocacy For Individuals And Families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borough Councillor Representation County Councillor Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a specific role for councillors in the Council's work leading and supporting communities as we move through the process of response and into recover. The Local Government Association have produced a detailed guidance document entitled COVID-19 Outbreak: Reset and Recovery to aid local councillors in their frontline community role. 	P&P
4. Parish Council Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Councils provide a local level point of contact for support to the communities in East Staffordshire. Residents can raise concerns with their Parish Councils, who can in turn provide advice or raise queries with the Borough and / or County Councils where necessary. 	C&P

6. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Lisa Turner

6.1. The main financial issues arising from this Report are as follows:

6.1.1. The financial position of the Council and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this position are not specifically considered within this report.

6.1.2. The Council, like all local authorities, is facing significant financial pressures due to COVID-19. These pressures not only include additional costs but also more significantly a reduction to the income levels the Council receives which are used to provide essential services to residents. The impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy will be extensive and this is being monitored and updated on a regular basis to reflect the most recent information and taking into account any additional financial support from Government.

6.1.3. Within the Spending Review and provisional local government finance settlement announced in December 2020 the Government set out further Covid-19 related financial support for local authorities in relation to 2021/22. However this is not currently sufficient to meet our expected cost and income pressures. The Council's underlying financial position is robust and this provides a strong foundation of financial resilience during these unprecedented circumstances.

6.2. The financial issues directly arising from this report are as detailed in Section 5.1.8.

7. Risk Assessment and Management

7.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

7.1.1. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

7.1.1.1. Sharing information across officer and Member portfolios on the current situation with Council facilities and services allows for a joined up overview of the response to challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

7.1.2. **Negative** (Threats):

7.1.2.1. The situation and data relating to the response is constantly developing. It should be noted that where data is presented the associated dates for the validity of that data will be provided in this report.

7.2. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

8. Legal Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Angela Wakefield

8.1. There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

9. Equalities and Health

9.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

9.2. **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

10. Human Rights

10.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

11. Sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

11.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) **N/A**

12. Recommendation(s)

12.1. To note the update detailed within the report.

13. Background Papers

13.1. None

14. Appendices

14.1. None