

ELECTED MEMBER SOUNDING BOARD

Minute of Meeting of the Elected Member Sounding Board held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 13 July 2020 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors X McDade, P Barrett, G Laing, J Duff and C Stewart; K Reid, Chief Executive; B Renton, Gold Commander; G Paterson, Chief Officer / Director – Integrated Health and Social Care; K Donaldson, Interim Chief Operating Officer.

Apologies: S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services).

In Attendance: S Hendry, Corporate and Democratic Services.

1. NOTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The note from the previous meeting of 6 July 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

2. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- KR advised that further guidance was expected from the Scottish Government this week on school transport operations as part of the proposed opening of schools in August, particularly around physical distancing.
- KR updated that in relation to test and protect, it was the Scottish Government’s intention to have 45,000 daily tests by the Autumn.
- KR advised that local authorities were awaiting further information from the Scottish Government on financial consequential, and that COSLA / SOLACE were in discussions with the Government on additional funding to local authorities as part of the re-opening of schools.
- BR provided an update on the anti-social behaviour as part of camping that had taken place at the weekend in Loch Tummel. Discussion had taken place with Police Scotland who had been in attendance in the area at various points over the weekend. KR and BR advised that the Council would be holding further discussions with Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to make sure that further collaborative work took place. KR also agreed to raise this as a wider issue through SOLACE.

Councillor McDade commented on the need for Scottish National Heritage to tighten up on the outdoor access code, as well as a more robust response from Police Scotland. Councillor Laing commented that this type of issue was common across many rural wards.

BR confirmed that a further briefing would be provided to elected members by the end of the week.

KD referred to a spam email that had been sent to some elected members and officers from the Provost’s Council e-mail account and confirmed that IT

had investigated the issue which had now been resolved. Guidance would be issued to all elected members as a reminder / best practice.

3. CARE HOMES UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Chief Officer / Director – Integrated Health and Social Care providing an update on activity within care homes and a summary of the key information and themes reported to the Scottish Government. GP provided a summary of the report.

GP confirmed that the Care Inspectorate had advised the Health and Social Care Partnership that there would be a national enquiry on Care at Home and Supported Living. The Partnership would be asked to report on both operations during the pandemic and what preparations were put in place based on national guidance at the time. In response to recent media coverage, GP confirmed that there had been 100% reporting by care homes in Perth and Kinross on testing of staff.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart on why a small number of staff had refused testing, GP agreed to investigate the details of this but confirmed the testing of PKC care home staff was not mandatory.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that KR would arrange an invite to the local Public Health Scotland team to join a future meeting of the sounding board to provide a general update on testing.

Councillor Stewart enquired about the testing of care at home staff. KR confirmed that this was currently a minimum of two staff from each provider.

4. EMERGENCY POWERS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

There was submitted and noted the record of decisions taken under emergency powers as of 13 July 2020.

KR confirmed that the list of decisions since the previous Council meeting would be further considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 5 August.

5. LATEST GUIDANCE / LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY GOLD COMMAND

There was submitted and noted the latest guidance / legislation considered by Gold Command as of 13 July 2020.

6. LG COVID-19 DASHBOARD SUMMARY

There was submitted and noted the latest statistics as of week ending 10 July 2020.

7. MEMBERS Q AND A

- (i) Councillor Stewart enquired about members of the public joining virtual committee meetings for deputations through MS Teams rather than phoning into the meeting, KD agreed to look into this further. It was noted that a mechanism would be put in place to allow a recess to take place in future virtual committee meetings to provide the relevant advice on the competency of motions/amendments.

- (ii) Councillor Stewart commented that the communications on social media could have been improved surrounding the recent decisions taken in relation to both school term dates and the implementation of the increased parking charges agreed at the Council budget meeting in March. Councillor McDade also raised concern about recent social media responses by the Council regarding place development.