

ELECTED MEMBER SOUNDING BOARD

Minute of Meeting of the Elected Member Sounding Board held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 10 August 2020 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors X McDade, P Barrett, G Laing, J Duff and C Stewart; K Reid, Chief Executive; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (left and returned for a brief period during consideration of Items 8-10 due to technical issues); K Donaldson, Interim Chief Operating Officer; G Paterson, Chief Officer/Director – Integrated Health and Social Care; S MacKenzie, Head of Finance, and L Simpson, Head of Legal and Governance Services (both for Item 4); and Dr E Fletcher, Associate Director of Public Health, NHS Tayside (for Item 2)

In Attendance: S Hendry, Corporate and Democratic Services.

IT WAS AGREED TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

2. TEST AND PROTECT

Dr E Fletcher provided members with a slide based presentation on the Test and Protect system in response to COVID-19. This included information in relation to self isolation timescales, test and protect, contact tracing, evidence and data on community transmission, as well as measures in place for schools to work with public health in the event of any potential cases of the virus. A similar briefing had been provided by Dr Fletcher the previous week to Parent Council Chairs.

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart, Dr Fletcher confirmed that if a child developed symptoms who had a sibling in another school, then communication would be made with parents that the whole family should self isolate for the appropriate period of time.

In response to a query from Councillor Duff, SD confirmed that each school would have self isolation areas for any pupils or staff who had developed symptoms to re-locate to prior to leaving the building.

In response to a question from Councillor Stewart on the powers set down to public health departments in legislation, Dr Fletcher confirmed that there was no mandate to enforce testing, and that self isolation could be legally imposed but was rarely enforced. Vaccinations were encouraged but were not mandatory.

DR FLETCHER LEFT THE MEETING.

1. NOTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The note from the previous meeting of 3 August 2020 was submitted and approved.

3. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- KR advised members that the UK Government Test and Protect location for Perth had been moved from the Fire Station to Broxden as of today, with a

possibility of a further move to McDiarmind Park to improve access. The Test and Protect team were continuing to visit various premises.

Councillor McDade commented that he had received some complaints in relation to spot checks and confirmed if return visits would be made, KR confirmed that return visits would be done at busier periods and that staff had appropriate PPE.

- A report would be submitted to next week's Environment and Infrastructure Committee recommending that in line with current guidance there be no winter festival / Christmas lights switch on for 2020.
- SD confirmed that a briefing pack was being prepared for elected members in relation to Perth and Kinross students following the SQA results the previous week, and would include any further information in relation to the statement from the Deputy First Minister the following day on the SQA results.

Following a comment by Councillor Barrett, SD confirmed she would circulate as much information / analysis as possible to members in advance of the Deputy First Minister's statement.

- KD confirmed that an Inside News Bulletin would shortly be issued to all staff in relation to homeworking and access to Council buildings.
- KR confirmed that investigations around technology were taking place into the future use of the Council Chambers, and other buildings, for various Council meetings.

S MACKENZIE AND L SIMPSON JOINED THE MEETING

4. BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS

SM confirmed that officers were currently doing a review of the revenue budget agreed by Council in March 2020, with a further Council meeting arranged on 30 September 2020 to formally carry out a review by elected members. SM commented that the full impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 revenue budget would not be known by the end of September and that the situation was constantly developing.

Following a question by Councillor Stewart, KR confirmed that the feedback received from members on the process for the budget review would be taken on board and a further outline of the process re-circulated.

KR confirmed that clarity was required for major capital projects as soon as possible and proposed that the budget review process for setting the following year's revenue budget begun following the October recess.

KD provided an update on further revisions to the draft virtual meetings protocol. The latest version of the protocol would be circulated to sounding board members to allow further feedback from all political groups and if necessary would be submitted for formal approval at Council.

S MACKENZIE AND L SIMPSON LEFT THE MEETING

5. 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 informed members that there had been a good response rate to the carers survey amongst unpaid carers, and that the carers strategy group were currently examining the statistics.

In response to a query from Councillor Barrett, GP confirmed that staff would engage with the third sector to build upon the volunteering and community spirit that had been shown during the pandemic.

6. EMERGENCY POWERS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

There was submitted and noted the record of decisions taken under emergency powers as of 10 August 2020.

7. LATEST GUIDANCE / LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY GOLD COMMAND

There was submitted and noted the latest guidance / legislation considered by Gold Command as of 10 August 2020.

8. LG COVID -19 DASHBOARD SUMMARY

There was submitted and noted the latest statistics as of week ending 7 August 2020.

Following a query by Councillor Barrett in relation to the highlighted additional expenditure in health and social care, GP agreed to investigate this further.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM, CABINET SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM AND IVAN MCKEE, MINISTER FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

There was submitted and noted the above correspondence in relation to the circular economy / plastic recycling.

10. MEMBERS Q AND A

KD advised that in relation to support for vulnerable people, plans were in place to open up Pullar House reception for access to the public but only on an appointments basis and in line with the Scottish Government's routemap out of lockdown.

In response to a suggestion from Councillor Barrett, KR agreed that a discussion would take place at next week's meeting on food poverty and supplies to community groups.

Following a question by Councillor Stewart, KR confirmed that an update would be provided at next week's meeting on the future scenrario planning work of the Local Resilience Partnership.