

AGENDA

Meeting: Children's Select Committee
Place: [Watch the online meeting here](#)
Date: Tuesday 19 January 2021
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Pre-meeting information briefing

There will be a briefing session starting at 9:30am

Membership:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman)	Cllr Chris Hurst
Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Hayley Illman
Cllr Mary Champion	Cllr Jo Trigg
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Fred Westmoreland
Cllr Christopher Devine	Cllr Philip Whalley
Cllr Mary Douglas	Cllr Suzanne Wickham
Cllr Nick Holder	Cllr Laura Mayes

Substitutes:

Cllr Pat Aves	Cllr Peter Evans
Cllr Clare Cape	Cllr Nick Fogg MBE
Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr Ernie Clark	Cllr Jim Lynch
Cllr Stewart Dobson	Cllr James Sheppard

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocesan RC Representative
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Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Ms Sarah Busby	Secondary Head Teacher Representative
John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative
Maisy Humphrey	Children & Young People's Representative
Declan Kiely	Children & Young People's Representative - Substitute
Catriona Williamson	Primary Head Teacher Representative
Nikki Barnett	Further Education Representative

Recording and Broadcasting Information

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Pre-meeting information briefing

The meeting will be preceded by a presentation starting at **9.30am**, this will be online and a separate invitation will be sent.

Topic: Safeguarding (Ofsted self-assessment).

All members and substitutes of the Children's Select Committee are welcome to attend.

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 16*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meetings held on 10 March 2020 and 16 June 2020.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chairman.

5 **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public. During the ongoing Covid-19 situation the Council is operating revised procedures and the public are able participate in meetings online after registering with the officer named on this agenda, and in accordance with the deadlines below.

[Guidance on how to participate in this meeting online.](#)

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this electronically to the officer named on this agenda **no later than 5pm on Friday 15 January 2021.**

State whom the statement is from (including if representing another person or organisation), state points clearly and be readable aloud in approximately 3 minutes. Up to three speakers are allowed for each item on the agenda.

Questions

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions electronically to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than **5pm on 12**

January 2021 in order to be guaranteed of a written response. In order to receive a verbal response questions must be submitted no later than **5pm on 14 January 2021**.

Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent. Details of any questions received will be circulated to members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website; they will be taken as read at the meeting.

6 Overview and Scrutiny during COVID-19 (Pages 17 - 24)

Since April, the council has been operating streamlined Overview and Scrutiny (OS) arrangements comprising formal, public meetings of the Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group and OS Management Committee. This was to enable efficient and effective scrutiny to be undertaken, while allowing council resources to be focused on the response to COVID-19 and supporting and protecting Wiltshire communities.

To support wider engagement, the select committees held informal meetings where members could raise issues and questions, which their chairmen then pursued at the formal forums above. The notes of Children's Select Committee's informal meetings on 22 September and 25 November 2020 are attached.

In December, following discussion with the Leader and Chief Executive, the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed that the full select committee structure would resume formal, public meetings from January 2021. It was agreed that the OS forward work programme would focus on COVID-19 and other priority issues with an emphasis on efficient and effective scrutiny engagement.

Under these arrangements, each select committee will undertake scrutiny engagement on those aspects of the COVID-19 response that fall within its particular remit. To assist, a document setting out which Wiltshire Council Recovery Plan themes fall within this Committee's remit is attached.

Notes of each select committees' discussions of COVID-19 will be presented for information to OS Management Committee (which next meets on 26 January 2021), allowing it to oversee overall scrutiny engagement on the topic.

7 Safeguarding (performance monitoring)

To receive information on how the council assesses the robustness and efficiency of its safeguarding processes (*report to follow*).

8 COVID-19 update (Pages 25 - 58)

A report from the Chief Executive is attached providing a summary of activity to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in Wiltshire since the last update to Cabinet in October. The report provided here was published on 23 December 2020 and considered by Cabinet on 5 January 2021. The draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting are also included.

All four of the council's select committees will receive the report and, to avoid duplication, members are invited to focus their questions and debate within this select committees' remit only.

9 **Youth Voice update**

To consider the results of the survey undertaken by the Families and Children's Commissioning team in the summer, the outcomes of meetings held with young people in the autumn and service changes.

10 **Forward Work Programme** (*Pages 59 - 72*)

The Committee is asked to note the attached documents showing the relevant items from the overview and scrutiny forward work programme and the latest version of the strategy list for the Children, Education and Skills directorate.

11 **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next scheduled meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 2 March 2021, starting at 2.00pm.

12 **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

None.

Children's Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2020 AT KENNET COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Philip Whalley, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Ms Sarah Busby, John Hawkins, Catriona Williamson and Barnett

Also Present:

Cllr Pauline Church and Cllr Peter Hutton

15 Membership & Apologies

The Chairman welcomed the following members to the committee:

- Cllr Jo Trigg, who had been appointed to the committee at the Council meeting on 25 February 2020,
- Nikki Barnett Head of Learning & Skills Development Services, Wiltshire College & University Centre who was replacing Charlotte Corfield as the committee's Further Education Representative.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to congratulate Lucy Townsend on her recent appointment as Director of Children's Services.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mary Champion (sub Peter Evans), Mary Douglas, Nick Holder and Hayley Illman and from Dr Mike Thompson.

16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 were approved with the addition of the following attendees: Mr John Hawkins, Ms Sarah Busby, Dr Mike Thompson, Nikki Barnett and Catriona Williamson.

17 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jo Trigg declared her roles as trustee with Trowbridge future, and school governor for John of Gaunt.

18 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman explained that there were no items directly linked to this committee's work at the Cabinet meeting on 4 February, although the School Admission Policies 2021-2022 were approved at that meeting.

A number of items at the 24 March 2020 Cabinet meeting related to the work of this committee:

- SEND Inclusion Strategy 2020-2023 – the chair and the vice-chair would be attending a briefing on this on Friday 13th March and would update the committee accordingly.
- South Central Independent Fostering Agency Framework - On Friday 24 January the chair received a briefing on this. From the briefing received the chair felt this was a logical and positive move as part of a child-centred approach. The chair advised members of the committee to read the Cabinet report if they would like more information on this.
- Virgin Health Care contract – a report requesting to extend the Virgin Health care contract and to also agree the length of the contract extension would be presented to Cabinet. The chair and vice-chair would receive a briefing on this with the chair and vice-chair of the Health Select Committee and would update this committee accordingly.

19 **Public Participation**

Cllr Sue Hughes, Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council, addressed the committee regarding Local Youth Network funding.

20 **Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme: Impact and Outcomes for Young People**

The Director of Children's Services presented the report and took the opportunity to introduce the recently appointed FACT programme lead (a post three-way funded by the council, police and CCG which reflected the partnership working ethos).

The committee was informed that the programme had been reviewed since the update the committee had received in March 2019, and a Community Safety for Young People work stream has been added.

The early support hub was now operating, alongside the MASH, and focusing on holistic support for families who did not meet the criteria for social care intervention.

The governance structure of FACT had been amended to an executive and operational board model, whose membership reflected the whole-life pathway and therefore included the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection.

The committee was informed of progress for all the workstreams, including the recent acquisition of a “pop-up” residential children’s home. Through the stronger families work reductions had been seen in missing episodes and suicide attempts. The young people service was developing, and recruitment was underway.

As part of Workstream 3 (best start in life), the Five to Thrive attachment, a partnership trauma and resilience training programme was underway. Early Years needs assessment had also been undertaken and would inform priorities for the service.

The Pause Project had been running and FACT was looking into potential expansion of the project, cost avoidance to date had been estimated at £1M.

Resolved

To note the updates since the last report;

To note that a review of the programme is due to be undertaken to prioritise delivery of workstreams/project that will deliver significant system benefits.

To request an update for March 2021. The Chair and Vice-chair will identify specific areas for update from the report considered today and inform officers accordingly. The update should include more figures for improved outcome for young people and also figures on savings / costs avoided to demonstrate the impact of the FACT programme (for example number of Five to Thrive champions trained, outcome / learning from the Multi-Agency Use of CMS, outcome of performance reviews, etc.)

To organise a briefing for councillors on the Five to Thrive training programme.

To organise two separate briefings for councillors on the MASH / Early support (which could include a tour of the offices) and FACT programme, this would be designed for new members of the committee but would be open to all wishing to attend.

21 **Schools Funding Briefing**

The committee received a comprehensive briefing on the processes for Schools Funding and were informed that some Local Authorities were predicting a £26M Dedicated Schools Grants (DSG) overspend.

The council had been on track to achieve its recovery target but was now predicting a shortfall of £5M due to a Department for Education change in accounting for DSG in the balance sheets, although it was recognised that the change had been put in place for valid reasons. The recovery plan previously circulated would be amended to reflect this change.

The council was concerned for some of the smaller schools but also larger secondary schools in covering the deficit.

It was explained that the council set the formula, but the money is paid directly to academy schools.

Resolved

To note the information in the Schools Funding Briefing and thank officers for the detailed information provided.

To have a pre-meeting briefing on school funding ahead of council's budget setting next year (19 January 2021).

22 Youth Transport Task Group - Final Report

The Chairman of the Task Group introduced the final report and took the opportunity to thank Devizes School for providing both a room and supervision to enable Alfie Lowe to attend the task group's meetings as a young people's representative.

The Chairman also thanked officers from the Passenger Transport Unit for their valuable engagement with the task group.

The committee and Cabinet member acknowledged the importance of youth transport and welcomed the recommendations from the task group. Unresolved transport issues for young people in further education and young people leaving care were highlighted.

Resolved

To endorse the findings and recommendations of the task group with the following amendment to Recommendation 3d:

review post-16 education transport to ensure it benefits as many young people as possible and without prejudice to education settings with limited public transport access, such as Lackham College.

To refer the final report to the following Cabinet Members for response at the Committee's next meeting:

- **Highways, Transport and Waste,**
- **IT, Digitalisation and Operational Assets,**
- **Children, Education & Skills.**

To invite the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills to look again into Public transport for Care Leavers.

23 **Traded Services for Schools and Outdoor Education Task Group - Final Reports**

The committee considered the final report of the task group which had been split into two for ease of reading (Outdoor Education and Traded Services for Schools).

The Chairman of the task group introduced the reports and thanked officers who had been involved with the task group for their openness and willingness to engage, as well as the Cabinet Member who had involved the task group at the earliest opportunities throughout the process with regards to Outdoor Education.

Resolved

To thank officers and Executive members, as well as the chair of the task group, for their dedication to and engagement with the work of the task group.

Outdoor Education

To note and endorse the task group's reports presented to Cabinet on 27 March 2018 and 11 December 2018 and the key findings and recommendations within the reports.

To endorse the report of the task group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills for response at the Committee's next meeting.

Traded Services for School

To note and endorse the recommendations made by the TG and already implemented (paragraph 46 of the report refers)

To endorse the report of the task group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills for response at the Committee's next meeting.

24 **School Ofsted Judgements**

Consideration was given to a report which included information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports published from 1 to 31 January 2020. It provided an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspectors, with 10 inspections published that month.

It was noted that at the end of August 2019, there were 415 stuck schools; and 1 school in Wiltshire fell into this category. Work was ongoing to ensure that the "stuck" school would not be in this category at its next inspection and the council was confident that this would be achieved.

It was also noted that only 16% of schools who had achieved outstanding for their previous inspection had retained that grading at their most recent inspection. In response to questions on any analysis undertaken to better understand why this was happening, it was agreed that a report would be presented to the committee when available.

Resolved

To note the report.

To consider, at the next available meeting, a brief report on the reasons identified to explain why schools previously rated as outstanding were not retaining that grading at their next inspection.

To receive information at a briefing session and a report at a committee meeting on the Wiltshire-wide vision being developed for collaborative working among schools to drive school improvements.

25 **DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education**

The Committee received an update from the Executive Director, Children & Education on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education, including:

- OFSTED inspection of children's homes, which highlighted the fact that the market is shrinking but the council's Fostering Excellence programme will be part of providing a response;
- Strict controlling of illegal schools;
- Work programme to support the one "stuck" school in Wiltshire;
- Reassurance that no under-16s were placed in unregulated or unregistered care homes, although this still was being checked for care leavers;
- That the issue of 26% of CAMHS referrals not meeting the threshold would be explored by the task group.

Resolved

To note the report.

To receive an update on the troubled families programme at a future meeting.

26 **Task Group and Board Representative Updates**

There were no task group updates as the CAMHS task group had not met since the last committee's meeting and the other two active task groups had presented final reports earlier on this agenda.

27 **Forward Work Programme**

Due to time pressure at the meeting the committee resolved to delegate to its Chairman and Vice-chairman to investigate the feasibility of overview and scrutiny engagement with the following topics and to present to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee accordingly, to avoid delaying the start of activity by a full meeting cycle.

Resolved:

To delegate to the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Children's Select Committee to refer any of these topics to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee following consideration of overview and scrutiny's potential to add value:

- 1. outcome for disadvantaged learners**
- 2. Recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers (**
- 3. Youth Grant / Local Youth Network funding**
- 4. Whole life pathway (potentially joint scrutiny task group with Health Select Committee)**

28 **Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved:

To note that the next scheduled meeting was due to take place on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

29 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.45 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713035, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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Children's Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2020 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Hayley Illman, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Philip Whalley, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Dr Mike Thompson and Catriona Williamson

Also Present:

Cllr Jane Davies

30 Election of Chairman 2020/21

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Jon Hubbard as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

31 Election of Vice-Chairman 2020/21

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Jacqui Lay as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

(Duration of meeting: 3.00 - 3.05 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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Summary notes of the informal (non-public) discussion meeting of Children's Select Committee

22 September 2020

Education

1. It was reported that attendance levels were good, taking into account that Reception children currently only attended school "part time", although they were slightly lower than previous years which was to be expected. Daily information on attendance was reported from schools to the DfE and the council reviewed that information.
2. The council had seen the risk assessments for schools it is responsible for. The council had also engaged with schools for their risk assessments for pupils with EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) to include in and out of school provision.
3. Schools were being as creative as they could within Covid-19 guidelines to offer extra-curricular activities (clubs, etc.) and wraparound care (breakfast clubs, etc.) to support pupils and to enable parents / carers to return to work.

Social services and safeguarding

4. There had been an initial 30% dip in referrals, but within three weeks the numbers were within 10% of average. Referral numbers were still lower than average. Modelling had been undertaken of the anticipated rise in referrals and contingency planning was underway, including setting trigger points and planning for resources to be "moved" where needed (at the earliest point of need possible).
5. Fostering Excellence was launched and currently expected to meet the approval targets set for this year.
6. Virtual meetings and hearings had taken place where possible and any delays to court proceedings were monitored by the council. Support such as childcare or socially-distanced meeting rooms at the council hubs were offered to support attendees when childcare was an issue during virtual hearings.

Early years and childcare

7. It was reported that capacity was sufficient at present. 7 settings had been classed as vulnerable due to low occupancy and sufficiency requirements in the area. The council was working with these setting to explore all mitigation options.

SEND

8. It was reported that advisory teams of teachers had been providing support to schools through a mixture of virtual meetings and risk assessed visits. Support from SEND services continued to be in high demand from families and schools and the SEND team was working hard to manage the statutory processes relating to SEND needs assessments. There had been positive joint working between the council and schools (“team around the school”).

Physical and mental health

9. The committee was informed of: data collected by Health England, the support offered by CAMHS in the past 6 months and development to the service (including single point of contact), the launch of the Wiltshire Early Mental Health Service run by Barnardo’s ([on your mind](#)), and plans to co-ordinate training for schools based on the DfE programme.

School transport

10. It was reported that 20 additional buses (financed by government grant) had been provided and 40 changes made to bus timetables to ensure adherence to Covid-19 guidance. There remained concern around the relatively low wearing of face covering on school buses and the council was working with schools, parents and bus companies to address this.

**Summary notes of the informal (non-public) discussion meeting of
Children's Select Committee**

25 November 2020

QUESTIONS FOR THE WILTSHIRE COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK GROUP

Transport

1. Any improvement on number of pupils wearing masks on school transport?
How is this being monitored?

Education and schools

2. Provision of ICT equipment to ensure continuity of learning for all pupils (but especially disadvantaged learners) – has this progressed as planned?
3. Attendance – paragraph 44 gives figures for weekly attendance data survey of early years providers – what about schools (or are they included in that data)?
4. The report shows reduction in exclusion for the first term but feedback to councillors from school staff seem to indicate issues / difficulties in sustaining behaviour after months out of school. Will the council continue monitoring behaviour related issues (including exclusion figures)?
5. Free school meals
 - a. Has the council been informed of the government's plans for support during the Christmas and Easter holidays in a way that will enable the council / schools to reach out to and inform families in advance of the holidays?
 - b. Paragraph 7 in the Cabinet report (1,351 children issues with FSM payments) – was that all FSM children? Or what percentage?
6. Funding issues (especially as Wiltshire is one of the lowest funded)
 - a. Are impact assessments planned / possible for schools to monitor the impact of schools having to reallocate some funding to respond to issues linked to Covid-19 rather than providing planned (or previous) interventions / support for pupils?
 - b. Can anything be done to support schools that may be experiencing budget issues linked to unexpected costs (e.g. supply staff, investing in PPE and additional costs of soap, hand sanitiser and paper towels)?
 - c. Does the council know if there are plans for school staff to be "higher" on the vaccine priority list?

Mental Health

7. Mental Health issues and how our young people are coping with living through the pandemic – is there a concern for the council that the pressure on demand could lead to very high threshold to access services?
This was also a potential area of work highlighted for the legacy report.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

8. How will the families be identified (do they need to register)? Does the council have any more information on the school holiday activity fund and who will have access? How will the council inform families of this?

Safeguarding

9. Could we have further information on paragraph 54 (forecasted growth in demand) “*We are in the process of reviewing this in light of the number not meeting the expected level at this stage*”? Has demand actually been lower than forecasted?
10. What steps are taken by schools when sending children home to self-isolate to ensure that home education is taking place and pupils are staying home and being safe? What can the council do (or is already doing) to support this (in effect monitoring “truancy”)?

FUTURE AREAS OF WORK FOR THE COMMITTEE / LEGACY REPORT

1. How can we most efficiently deal with Free School Meal payments and / or support outside of school year, without stigmatisation? Possible rapid scrutiny / task group.
2. Virtual Schools update following change of leadership and ways of working (and budget reduction) – information about the service and its work.
3. Youth provision (gap analysis undertaken – ref Covid update to Cabinet, 1 December 2020) - committee members to look out of good / bad news story re youth provision in their area to ensure that where / when help is needed the council is informed.
4. Increasing concerns from pupils expecting to take exams this year (20/21) – keep an eye on guidance issued.
5. Mental Health – to receive an update on support offered / service delivered by CAMHS (demand / waiting time / threshold, etc.) and development to the service (including single point of contact), the launch of the Wiltshire Early Mental Health Service run by Barnardo’s ([on your mind](#)), and plans to co-ordinate training for schools based on the DfE programme.

6. Being informed of NEET numbers (update) and any take up of the government scheme. Maybe a briefing?
7. Childcare provision – currently scheduled to have a report / update on Early Years & Childcare places across Wiltshire for the March CSC meeting.
8. Ensuring the effectiveness of the ‘Well-being for Education Resilience’ (formally ‘Return’) programme being delivered to all education establishments in Wiltshire.
9. Budget – “*expected latent demand for services and correlation in the increase in LAC being pushed back into next financial year (21-22)*” – CSC to remain mindful of expected pressure when reviewing the budget.
10. Elective home education (EHE) - increase and tenday cooling off period mentioned in report – to be followed up / expanded on at the EHE pre-meeting briefing for the CSC March meeting.

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Wiltshire Council Recovery Plan themes

Wiltshire Council Recovery Plan workstreams:

**Community resilience (CR)
Economy (E)**

**Care, Safeguarding & Education (CSE)
Health & Wellbeing (H&W)**

OS Management	Children's Select	Environment Select	Health Select
<i>Wiltshire Council Organisational Recovery</i>	Educational Outcomes (CSE)	Place (E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate programme • Market towns recovery • Regeneration and place-shaping Community Spaces (CR)	COVID-19 Health protection board (H&W)
<i>Multi-agency communications</i>	Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) (CSE)	Economy (E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business representative organisations • Business support • Visitor economy 	Substance mis-use sub-group (H&W)
<i>Multi-agency intelligence</i>	Vulnerable people (safeguarding children) (CSE)	People (E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, employment and skills • People, debt and income • Kickstart 	BSW Mental health, LD and ASD recovery (H&W)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test & trace 	
Inequalities (CR)	Education, Employment and Skills (E)		Wiltshire Alliance (H&W)
Community engagement (CR)			Occupational health forum (H&W)
Wellbeing Hub (CR)			LRF Testing (H&W)
Partnership design (CSE)			Vulnerable people (safeguarding <i>adults</i>) (CSE)
			Care homes (CSE)
			Domestic abuse (CSE)
<i>Existing remit: OS function, work programme, Finance, Performance, Digital, Commercial, Corporate, HR, Equality & diversity</i>	<i>Existing remit: Schools, SEND, LAC, CAHMS, FE sector, Early Years, Young People's Voice</i>	<i>Existing remit: Strategic planning, highways & transport, waste, housing, climate change / carbon reduction, libraries and leisure, flooding</i>	<i>Existing remit: Primary, acute, mental and public health Adult care and safeguarding</i>

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

5 January 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Update

Cabinet Member: Cllr Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Military Civilian Integration and Communications

Key Decision: Non-Key

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of activity to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in Wiltshire since the last update to Cabinet in December. Since the last report a national lockdown has been replaced by a tier system with Wiltshire placed into Tier Two (high). Work has been undertaken to develop a local tracing service and support for businesses, vulnerable groups, care homes and schools continues. Mass vaccination programmes started week commencing 7 December, and local vaccination centres began to open 16 December in Wiltshire. Shadow recovery work continues.

Proposal(s)

Cabinet are asked to

- Continue to encourage all residents to download the NHS Test and Trace app on their phone.
- Encourage all residents to answer a call received from 0300 456 0100 as it may be the local contact tracing team within the Council
- Continue to encourage all residents to follow national guidance
- To note the financial forecast as detailed within the report
- To note changes in national policy and the work underway within the Recovery Coordinating Group themes.

Reason for Proposal(s)

Wiltshire Council continues to work closely with partners to deliver in a rapidly changing environment.

**Terence Herbert
Chief Executive**

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

5 January 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Update

Cabinet Member: Cllr Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Military Civilian Integration and Communications

Key Decision: Non-Key

Purpose of Report

1. A brief summary of the key activity to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in Wiltshire since the last update to Cabinet in December.

Background

2. As of Sunday 19 December 2020, 1,743,893 people in England had tested positive for COVID-19. Further information is available [online](#). The [ONS](#) suggest that as of 4 December there were 68,939 registered COVID-19 deaths across England and Wales of which 65,061 were in England. As of 18 December in Wiltshire there have now been 6232 people who have tested positive for COVID-19. As of 18 December the rate of cases per 100,000 in Wiltshire in the last 7 days was 78 which is below the national average. Up to the 4 December, 428 registered deaths involving COVID-19 in all settings in Wiltshire had occurred (223 in care homes, 178 in hospital, 23 at home and 4 in hospices). Further information on weekly mortality is available from [ONS](#).

Main Considerations for the Council

3. On 23 November the Prime Minister set out the [COVID-19 Winter Plan](#). Within this measures were confirmed which will be monitored in relation to which tier an area is placed under. These measures include case detection rates in all age groups, case detection rates in the over 60s, the rate at which cases are rising or falling, positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of test taken), and pressure on the NHS both currently and projected.
4. The Prime Minister announced on 26 November that a return to a [tier alert system](#) would commence 2 December.
5. Wiltshire was placed in tier 2 (high tier) as during that time rates within Wiltshire were increasing and pressures were being felt within the acute hospitals. The tiers were reviewed again on 16 December 2020 and Wiltshire remained in tier 2.
6. On 17 December the government announced that the furlough scheme has been extended another month until the end of April 2021.

7. On 19 December the government announced a [revised tier structure](#) consisting of 4 tiers and parts of the country were placed into tier 4. This was due to concerns over the variation of COVID-19 and increasing numbers of positive cases. Wiltshire remained in tier 2.
8. Additional key government announcements published since the cabinet paper are in **Appendix 2**.
9. Wiltshire Council has continued in response mode for the COVID-19 pandemic. Internal Gold response group continues to meet which feeds into weekly multi-agency response groups SSG (strategic Coordination Group) and the TCG (Tactical Coordination Group).
10. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub continues to offer support, guidance and signposting and proactively contacted all those recently recorded as being clinically extremely vulnerable.
11. There has been a 13.5% increase of pupils eligible for free school meals in October 2020 compared to January 2020. This equates to 1055 extra pupils.
12. The COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme is now live. Wiltshire has received a grant of £1.1m to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals most in need with the cost of food, energy and water bills. The scheme runs from December until 31 March 2021. Payments have already been made to 9,133 eligible children via 239 schools to the value of £274,440 and to 1217 eligible pre-school children via 236 early years settings to the value of £36,190. Further payments will be made to this group in January and March.
13. We have awarded further grants to the value of £69,454 to Wiltshire Community Foundation – ‘Surviving Winter Scheme’ and the Centre for Sustainable Energy who support vulnerable adults with fuel payments through winter. A proportion of the grant will be held within the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme which will accept applications from individuals and families.
14. To support local retailers and small businesses during the COVID-19 crisis we have put together a Shop Local, Support Wiltshire directory. Sorted by place, shoppers can find the businesses close to them, many offering the option to buy online or click and collect. <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/shop-local-wiltshire>.
15. We are on track to deliver approximately £100m of COVID-19 grants to over 10,000 businesses across Wiltshire in 2020.
16. As we moved back out from the national lockdown into the tier system, libraries and leisure centre have been re-opened.
17. A second public COVID-19 webinar was held on 8 December which again was well received. Residents have requested further webinars to be held.
18. Planning for Wiltshire’s long term recovery upon exiting lockdown continues, with our recovery work still running in shadow. Significant developments since the

last report are summarised under the sub-headings below; with additional detail in **Appendix 1**.

Test and Trace

19. The local tracing service has been live since Mid-November, picking up any cases that NHS Test and Trace have not managed to contact. As a total, 85% of COVID-19 cases in Wiltshire are now followed up by either NHS Test and Trace or our local contact tracing service. In previous months the county's average was around 60-70%, so this is a big improvement.
20. In Wiltshire we have a regional testing site in Salisbury and a local testing site became operational on 1 December based at the previous Trowbridge mobile site. Two further sites have been identified for mobile testing units to maintain coverage across the county. These are in Chippenham and Warminster.

Mass Testing

21. Testing is now being widened to include a host of additional settings and community groups. Within Wiltshire, GP surgeries as well as care homes and schools now have access to swab test kits for those most vulnerable. Care homes are also being provided with a number of test kits (lateral flow tests) for visitors so that there can be closer and more frequent family contact with residents in a secure and safe way.
22. In addition, two pilots will be starting in the New Year using the lateral flow test kits within a business setting and within some of internal council staff who work to support some of our more vulnerable individuals. The results of these pilots will be evaluated to assess the potential for wider roll out.

Mass Vaccination

23. Mass vaccination programmes started week commencing 7 December, and local vaccination centres began to open 16 December in the county using the vaccine from Pfizer. Due to the large logistical nature of the programme the council have been working closely with the NHS, who are leading the roll out, to ensure that resources and support are provided across the Local Resilience Forum.

Outbreak Management

24. There has been a continued increase in case notifications to the public health team across a variety of settings, requiring outbreak management and monitoring. New assets to assist schools and businesses prepare for and deal with cases and outbreaks have been designed and distributed locally and surge capacity has been identified from the public health team for an anticipated increase in outbreak notification in the New Year.

Community spaces and engagement

25. As we moved back out from the national lockdown into the tier system, libraries and leisure centre were re-opened. 16 libraries have reverted back to browsing along with bookable computer access ensuring residents without internet or computers are able to get online. 5 libraries continue to offer order and collect and will move to browsing in the new year. Other smaller libraries will follow suit in the New Year. Netheravon Library re-opened for the first time since lockdown on 14 December as a purely volunteer-led and run library.
26. The library service is working to expand opening hours so that libraries are open until 6pm at least once per week and open on a Saturday.
27. All ten in-house leisure centres have re-opened including the new Calne Community Campus and Amesbury Sports Centres for the first time and nine of the ten Places Leisure managed leisure centres are open. Trowbridge Sports Centre will open in the New Year following the structural repairs.
28. The number of community groups increased over the second lockdown to 343. The support required was significantly less during November, however, volunteers again stepped up wherever they were required. We continue to offer guidance and are working with partners and the groups to build up the resilience of these groups. The Wiltshire Together platform is building strongly to provide a more comprehensive picture of community activities, services, community officers and partners.
29. The success of the Wiltshire Together Champions programme now continues, working with voluntary organisations and officers from the Communities and Public Health team to provide a friendly face and to maintain compliance with the current COVID-19 measures.

Wellbeing Hub

30. The Wellbeing hub stood up during the first lockdown period and its objective is to implement a county wide initiative offering support, guidance and signposting to the local population. It was stood back up in November 2020 for the second response phase and initially ran over 7 days a week. The hub will be in operation 5 days a week during the Christmas period to ensure those in need are assisted during this difficult time, with emergency duty service available for any emergencies at weekends and bank holidays. Contacts into the hub significantly dropped during Mid- December and therefore, we have reviewed the hub opening hours and it now operates over 5 days, with support available from the Council's Emergency Duty Service (EDS) to provide an emergency response if required over the weekend.
31. All shielding residents were contacted during the first lockdown. 3,100 people who have been recently identified as being clinically extremely vulnerable since the second lockdown in November 2020 have also been contacted.
32. The hub continues to support members of the public who raise queries around current lockdown guidance and refer concerns or issues relating to business and organisations to the public protection/ public health team.

33. The Wellbeing hub fortnightly multiagency/partner meetings have been re-established to ensure a multiagency responsive system is in place.

Care Homes

34. The Council continues to work in partnership with Wiltshire Care Partnership, the CCG and CQC in implementing a support programme to Care Homes. This has included the dedicated COVID-19 team, regular webinars and newsletters, and a BSW CCG Care Home Oversight Group chaired by the Director of Nursing & Quality.

35. As of 15 December there were 16 care homes reporting new COVID-19 positive cases, a figure that has been stable for the last 3 weeks. There was a total of 51 cases, mainly due to a cluster of cases in 2 homes. There are more cases amongst staff (33) than residents (18). This is the lowest number of cases amongst residents for 4 weeks.

36. Multiple cases in a single setting continues to be a rare occurrence, although has increased, showing how infection control measures supported by regular testing continue to be effective measures preventing widespread transmission in most settings.

37. Since mid-April, the Council has worked in partnership with the CCG and CQC to weekly review risks and support all local care homes.

38. The Health Protection Board reviews outbreaks in care homes fortnightly and considers whether there should be any restrictions to visiting. The Council is encouraging care homes to allow visiting but have advised them to review their risk assessments and ensure that infection prevention and control measures, including social distancing, are in place to ensure COVID-19 safe visiting.

39. This advice continues with the lateral flow tests that have been introduced for care home visitors due to the reliability of such tests on asymptomatic people. These tests will be another way that care homes can strengthen safe visiting but do not signal a relaxation of the measures in place. A letter from the Directors of Public Health and Adult Social Services of BaNES, Wiltshire and Swindon have been sent to care homes to emphasise this message.

40. The Council is working closely with the CCG to prepare for the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Health and Care

41. The multi-agency approach we are taking is enabling us to support individuals to return home as quickly as possible. We have identified and implemented additional capacity for people with complex needs so that there is an opportunity to make longer term plans away from a hospital ward. Planning is also taking place to deliver a new service in partnership with our Community Health partners to help people to remain at home and avoid a hospital admission wherever possible and we are aiming to have an impact this winter.

42. The Care Home Advisory group that we established early into the first lockdown to provide expert advice to care providers continues to meet regularly and has addressed a range of issues including testing and infection control measures which has been welcomed by our providers.
43. Our current PPE supply continues to meet the demands of the business across Wiltshire. In addition, both Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire & Swindon Local Resilience Forum (LRF) as a whole, have sufficient stock across lead PPE items. In relation to Wiltshire Council daily monitoring of stock levels, usage rates and estimated days of supply are carried out alongside fortnightly monitoring of stock levels against usage rates seen in April/May, at their highest.
44. Wiltshire Council also carries out the same fortnightly monitoring for Swindon Borough Council in order that the LRF status is known and reported. These reports identify Wiltshire Council having approx. 3 months' supply across lead PPE items and the LRF having approx. 8 months' supply.
45. Department of Health and Social Care continues to provide monthly PPE supplies to assist with demand across certain settings, should the need arise, to those who are ineligible to register on the Govt PPE portal. These services include children's and adults social care, rough sleepers' team, CCG staff and Direct Payment employees and with education and childcare settings recently being included.
46. Discussions with DHSC have taken place as to whether these monthly supplies will also include PPE demands to assist funeral directors within the geographical area. This has yet to be decided.
47. Monthly reviews continue with procurement to ensure commercial suppliers have adequate stocks/lead times with discussions regarding post Brexit.
48. A Wiltshire Council representative attends the Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG) updating the meeting with the current PPE status relating to the LRF as a whole. Assistance from the TCG would be provided if needed.

Education

49. Attendance continues to be monitored and schools continue to be supported to achieve full attendance. The weekly attendance data survey of early years providers indicates that of the 95% of settings that respond, 90% are open. Attendance across all schools was 91% on the 9 December 2020, this remains above the national level of 86% on the 3 December 2020.
50. There is sufficient childcare provision currently, although there are concerns about the sustainability for a small number of settings. A hardship fund is open for settings that have fewer children this year and who need additional help to maintain viability.
51. There was a total of 113 positive cases across 46 school settings in Wiltshire as of 9 December 2020. A total of 3036 pupils were self-isolating. Early years settings have been increasingly affected by infections with 12% having had a positive case in either staff or a child.

52. On the last day of term in December the government announced that secondary schools would have a staggered return for pupils, with exam years returning first and mass testing of pupils being made available on a weekly basis. The Council has been working closely with schools to support them and to clarify the guidance and the staffing requirements for the tests.
53. There have been 13 Ofsted visits to Wiltshire primary schools during term 2, all of which have been conducted remotely. The outcomes of these are ungraded and have been published in the forms of letters sent to the school community following the visit. They have visited:
- 1 school judged 'outstanding'
 - 6 schools judged 'good'
 - 1 school judged 'requires improvement'
 - 4 schools judged 'inadequate'
54. Continued guidance for schools for remote learning has been given through the Headteachers' briefing and through disadvantaged learner networks from the EdTech Demonstrator Hub, signposting schools to resources, training webinars and school to school support to improve remote learning. All schools have in place remote learning plans which can be enacted for individuals, bubbles, year groups and a whole school. The DFE have updated their expectations for remote education with a minimum set of expectations. This sets out expectations for curriculum coverage and sequencing, quality and minimum equivalent lengths of teaching time for primary and secondary students.
55. With the removal of national restrictions on the 2 December back to a tiered system, additional guidance was published for [schools](#). The changes have been shared with schools via the weekly newsletter and webinars. Schools have adjusted risk assessments and arrangements to implement the guidance.
56. Details to changes to examinations for summer 2021 and for primary assessments have been outlined and shared with schools; further support and guidance will be developed during terms 3 and 4.
57. The 'Well-being for Education Resilience' has been adapted for the local Wiltshire context by a multi-agency collective to ensure it complements existing initiatives (e.g. Five to Thrive training programme). It provides an opportunity to provide immediate support for education settings in managing the emotional health and wellbeing of their communities during the pandemic, and to take a more co-ordinated approach longer term, clearly promoting and signposting people to local support. There has been positive engagement from primary and secondary schools. A multi-agency directory of services and programmes that support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health that went live in November continues to be promoted to schools.
58. Extensive [guidance](#) has been revised and updated following the most recent government guidance introduced to coincide with the resumption of the tier system on 2 December relating to home to school transport. There continues to be no requirement for social distancing on home to school transport, but secondary age pupils on dedicated home to school transport are now required to wear face coverings, unless they are medically exempt. This brings dedicated

school transport into line with public transport. Letters were sent to all affected pupils, to schools and contractors advising them of this change, while exemption cards were sent to schools and notices for display on vehicles were sent to contractors. Wiltshire Council continues to stress the importance of:

- Additional cleaning of vehicles with particular attention being paid to frequently touched areas such as door handles, bells pushes, arm rest etc
- Good vehicle ventilation being maintained at all times

59. All taxi drivers and Passenger Assistants are required to wear a face covering.

60. Free school meal funding has been provided direct to schools and early years settings to ensure all eligible pupils receive two £15 vouchers to cover the two-week Christmas period. This funding is going to all pupils in receipt of free school meals, 2-year-old 'Better Together' funding or early years pupil premium. Education settings have had flexibility to use a variety of methods to provide this support for their families and these have reflected the local area and family circumstances.

Economy

61. In November the claimant rate was 11,895, levelling off from August's 12,850. Wiltshire's claimant rate remains at 4%, compared to a Great Britain rate of 6.3% and a South West rate of 5%.

62. Of the 11,895 claimants, 2465 are under the age of 24 which is a fall of 100 in the past month. For the first time since the initial claimant spike, the number of unemployed has risen in the aged 50+ category, but only by a small margin.

63. Data from Citizen's Advice shows there has been an increase in Universal Credit (UC) claims in November of 389 individuals. This follows a fall last month of -244, and November is showing the highest claimant rate this year.

64. There has been a further decrease in furlough claims through September as national restrictions were eased. We are yet to see the impact of the November restrictions.

65. At the end of September people were furloughed in Wiltshire, a rate of 6%. Wiltshire continues to have a lower furlough rate than the national average (now 8%).

66. A second round of the self-employment grant has generated a rise in the number of claims nationally. Wiltshire's claim rate continues to be lower than the national and regional average. However, Wiltshire businesses have higher value claims, consistently £200.00 higher than the national average across the months. The data identifies 25,300 eligible businesses in Wiltshire.

67. As of 17 December we have received 581 applications for the Self Isolation Payment Scheme (SIPS) and have awarded 167 payments. Payments are £500 and are to support those in financial need as a result of being required to self-isolate. A team is in place to administer this payment scheme.

68. The Kickstart Programme provides apprenticeship support to 16-24 year olds who are not currently in employment or training. We have coordinated a multi-agency approach to the Kickstart Programme, with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership taking the lead on this via the Growth Hub. We have 270 placements lined up across Wiltshire. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are now allocating young people to these placements. There has been a delay in rolling out the scheme within the DWP but the scheme will now be implemented early in 2021.
69. The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) has supported businesses who have had to close during the most recent four week lockdown. As of 17 December we have made £3.176m of payments under this scheme and £483k has been paid using the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), which is aimed to support businesses who aren't eligible for the main LRSG funding. These grant payments have supported 2394 Wiltshire businesses. We are on track to deliver approximately £100m of COVID-19 grants to over 10,000 businesses across Wiltshire in 2020.
70. The council has submitted a bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to fund energy efficiency improvements in council buildings. A total of £4.7m has been requested, which will stimulate local supply chains and sustain green jobs locally.
71. The council has also submitted a £0.5m bid to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme. This will fund energy efficiency improvements in 2021 for 100 of our council homes that are rated D-F on their Energy Performance Certificates.
72. The council has been talking to training providers about local provision of green skills to prepare for the opportunities presented by the energy transition.

Safe Spaces

73. We continue to work closely with our partners in town councils to evaluate the effectiveness of social distancing schemes and have a clear structure in place with weekly meetings overseeing all schemes for creating safe space for walking and cycling particularly in busy areas.
74. The Council is consulting on all cycling schemes funded from government's Emergency Active Travel, and the consultation will end on 8 January.
75. Following recent guidance from government we have considered our preparedness for severe winter weather, reduced roadworks during seasonal holidays to improve traffic flow, and considered social distancing at busy transport hubs.

Organisational Recovery

76. The organisational recovery programme continues, albeit progress has been impacted by the diversion of some of the programme resources to support the ongoing response to the pandemic. Despite this some initiatives will continue to

be implemented as planned and further details will be provided in the next Covid19 update to Cabinet in February.

Financial Implications

77. This report provides an update on the Councils financial position as at the end of period 8, projecting the forecast position as at 30 November 2020, detailing any significant changes in the variances since the period 7 position and updating on any announcements from Government.
78. At the Cabinet meeting on 1 December the COVID-19 Update and Financial Update report presented a forecast small underspend of £0.071m, a continuing improvement on the previous forecast position. In addition, £4m was set aside in a specific earmarked reserve to deal with the challenges of setting a balanced budget for the financial year 2021/22 as approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 3 November.
79. Since the last budget monitoring report there have not been additional funding announcements to support any additional impact for the current financial year (2020/21). Specific grants continue to be assumed to be fully spent to support the activity for which they have been awarded or ring-fenced for these purposes and therefore do not impact on the overall financial forecasts for the council.
80. Overall Place services have a revised forecast variance improvement of £1.291m from period 7 and is due to income forecasts in Car Parking, Planning, Building Control and Land Charges showing an improvement in actual income received in comparison to the previous forecast. Transport forecasts have improved as confirmation that government grant will continue to the end of the financial year and not end in January as originally expected.
81. In other service areas there are further significant positive changes to forecast variances. The forecast total spend has reduced by £2.197m thus improving the overall position.
82. Families and Children's are forecasting a favourable movement of £0.475m largely due to lower than expected caseloads as a result of lockdown activity during the financial year which have meant vacancies have not been filled by agency social workers as would normally be the case and higher level of income to support asylum seeking children.
83. There has been an adverse movement in Access & Reablement of £0.613m from period 7 to period 8. There is a result of an increase in commitments in Access & Reablement as the Hospital Discharge Funding is phased out, and people become eligible for local authority funded support. There is also an increase in staffing costs. This is offset by a reduction in the anticipated risk of new packages that were built into the previous forecasts.
84. There is a favourable movement on Adults Commissioning of £0.603m from period 7 to period 8. Two block contracts with Order of Saint John have ended, contributing to £0.400m of the movement. There has also been an agreement to fund work undertaken by Age Concern, previously funded from the

commissioning budget, from a mixture of the Hospital Discharge funding and the improved Better Care Fund.

85. The forecast for Housing Benefit Subsidy has improved, with greater confidence in the ability to recover overpayments and results in a £0.500m favourable variance.
86. The net position of the favourable movement in the forecast of the income losses and the additional movements in forecast service spend results in an overall forecast underspend for the council of £2.892m.
87. Given the continued improvement in the overall forecast position, there is now the opportunity to put further monies aside to deal with anticipated issues arising in the 2021/22 financial year. Not only will this be utilised to assist in balancing the 2021/22 budget, but monies will also be set aside to deal with latent demand originally forecast to be incurred this year, but now expected to arise in the next financial year.
88. Areas of latent demand being considered are around Mental Health services, Children in Care, SEND Transport and maintenance of Council buildings. To ensure funding is available to support the anticipated delayed expenditure in future years these balances will be requested to be transferred into an earmarked reserve to manage latent demand.
89. This will be fully reported and detailed out in the quarter 3 position when there is further clarity on the forecast financial position for this financial year as well as understanding the position with respect to latent demand and in which year that pressure and risk may fall on services.
90. Any additional underspend at the end of the year will be transferred to the General Fund Reserve which currently stands at £15.456m. Conversely any overspend that may arise at the financial year end will be required to be funded by this reserve.
91. Given the uncertainty as we move into the winter months and the uncertainty of further response and recovery costs during this period the spending control measures will still continue until the situation becomes clearer and to ensure we continue to protect the General Fund Reserve and where possible continue to bolster earmarked reserves for future resilience.

Legal Implications

92. The Council's legal team continues to provide advice on the application of new COVID-19 legislation and all aspects of recovery.

Safeguarding Implications

93. Adult and Children's social care continue to maintain all statutory requirements.
94. Referrals into children's safeguarding services are now above pre-COVID-19 levels and we forecast this growth to continue to increase at least until the end of the financial year. However, as a result of lower demand from March through

to the summer the number of children subject to child protection plans or looked after is lower than forecasted; this pattern is similar in many local authorities and has recently been recognised by both Ofsted and the DfE, with national publicity campaigns commenced.

95. The Safeguarding Vulnerable People's Partnership in Wiltshire is leading a campaign to ensure all agencies and services review their current practice to maintain good oversight of vulnerable children and know when to refer concerns to social care. We continue to anticipate growth in the numbers of children subject to child protection plans and looked after children, however it is unlikely that this growth will now peak before the end of this financial year.
96. Planning continues to ensure statutory social care demand can be met and demand modelling draws data and intelligence from a wide range of providers and partner organisations to enable a system wide response. Regular sit-reps are obtained from across the safeguarding partnership so that demand readiness can be assured.
97. The demand into Adult MASH remains low with a suspected sudden surge in the New Year. This follows the historical trend and considers the latent demand expected around financial abuse, which is expected due to the pandemic. Further work is underway with our Communications team to raise awareness of financial abuse and where to find support.
98. Referrals into Adult Social Care Advice and Contact teams are predicted to follow a similar pattern to safeguarding referrals with a dip in December followed by a rapid increase in January/ February. Further review and analysis are required to identify and understand incoming demand from primary care/acute services and any resultant impact on demand for adult care.
99. The Learning Disability Team is already experiencing a higher than normal level of demand due to the impact that the closure day and respite services have had on individuals and their carers. Demand is expected to remain high with a peak of very high demand over the Christmas period.
100. The demand for both Mental Health Assessments and s136 assessments is expected to remain stable until the new year when both are likely to see a significant increase. It is also expected that there will be some slight increase coming from cases on the edge of admission requiring more intensive mental health support from the local authority – i.e. those who were being sufficiently supported outside of local authority services pre-COVID-19 may find a reduction in that support increases demand for local authority Adult Mental Health service provision.
101. For the sector, demand for support and services for those with lower level needs is likely to rise significantly as the long-term impact of COVID-19 and associated lockdowns are felt (social isolation, winter season, stretched unpaid carer capacity, reductions in community support capacity, etc).
102. Work is underway to understand the recent government announcements for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) funding being made available (in-year) to support the local authority's response to

domestic abuse and support to victims and their families. In preparedness of the new Domestic Abuse Bill coming into effect in April 2021, plans are now in place having been reviewed through Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnerships as well as the Vulnerable People Stakeholder's group.

103. Lessons learnt in relation to domestic abuse from the previous lockdown are being used by providers of domestic abuse services. Christmas and New Year is usually the time where demand and pressure is highest on domestic abuse services with volumes already higher than normally anticipated, and awareness of helplines and communications is being raised. We will continue to maintain the domestic abuse 24 helpline at least until the end of the financial year.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

104. This report will be considered by the Financial Planning Task Group on 4 January 2021 and Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group on 7 January 2021, with members of the Executive and senior officers in attendance to answer members' questions. The Chairmen will report any comments and findings of the task group at the Cabinet meeting.

Procurement Implications

105. A sequential approach to supplier relief was agreed earlier on in the response phase of the pandemic, ensuring that suppliers were pointed to central Government support where possible first and work with us on an open book basis when necessary. The Council has established an internal Commercial Board to provide oversight and assurance on the end to end procurement process around future contract activity and management.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

106. Work continues to understand the impact of the pandemic on those with protected characteristics. Equality implications are being considered in the Council's decision making and any change to service provision. Recovery theme leads have embedded the use of a Health Equality Assessment Tool. The Community Resilience theme working with partners is leading on the work to enable Wiltshire's communities to be cohesive places where difference is celebrated.
107. Further information about some of the work undertaken by the Community Resilience theme is outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

108. A new Climate Strategy will be developed in the coming year to set out how the council is going to meet its challenging targets to become carbon neutral by 2030. As part of developing the strategy, each Recovery Theme will need to consider the environmental impact of its activities and identify opportunities to contribute to a green recovery.
109. The council has recently joined forces with dozens of local authorities across the country and signed up to the ADEPT blueprint for a green recovery. This

[initiative](#) aims to secure more powers and resources for councils to take action on climate change and nature restoration, and to build back better from COVID-19.

110. The Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group has put forward recommendations on Energy, Transport and Planning which have now all been published. The Executive's response to the Energy and Transport recommendations and the Planning recommendations are available as downloads [here](#).

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

111. A partnership risk register is in place and owned by the Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG). Recovery partnership risks are managed in themes on separate registers with an escalation procedure for significant risks to be reviewed by the RCG.
112. Wiltshire Council specific risks around recovery are managed within the Organisational Recovery programme on a separate register. That register will feed into the Council's Strategic Risk Register. Wiltshire Council's Performance and Risk Management reporting will resume for quarter two 2020/21.
113. Internal management of risk during the current response phase has led to the identification of new risks and the creation of a Council-wide risk register managed by Gold CLT.

Workforce Implications

114. Government guidance about employment matters affected by the pandemic continues to be applied. The COVID-19 policy implemented in March 2020 sets out information for staff, including the application of policies and procedures to support response and during recovery, and will continue to be reviewed and updated following consultation with the trade unions.
115. The current tiering of regions based on the level of COVID cases has been taken account of and communications to staff to reiterate the need to work at home wherever possible have been issued. In addition, the process for approving staff to return to the workplace has been reviewed to ensure staff are only attending the workplace for essential reasons, i.e. impact on service delivery, to access equipment or information or for well-being reasons, and with approval of Directors.
116. The organisation recovery programme is taking steps to assess, evaluate and review the way in which the workforce operated during lockdown so that we can embed some of the positive changes and identify new opportunities to deliver services differently.

Conclusions

117. Wiltshire Council continues to play a critical role with its partners and the local community in responding to the impact of the coronavirus in the county.

Terence Herbert, Chief Executive

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17 December 2020

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Additional detail on work under themes and on Organisation Recovery
Appendix 2: Key government announcements provided since last cabinet report

Appendix 1

Health and Wellbeing – additional information

Homelessness

- In partnership with Aster Housing, we have allocated a property using the Housing 1st Model . The first review is due in a couple of weeks, but early signs are positive and wrap around support is working well .
- With long-term government funding we have identified properties for use as move on accommodation for rough sleepers. We are hoping that these will be available in the new year.
- The Homes4Wilts housing need figures were 2712 in March 2020 and are now 3071 - an increase of 13%. The reason for the increase will be a combination of increased demand and the fact that less affordable housing has been re-let due to organisations locking down and also a prioritisation of homeless applicants being rehoused during the pandemic for obvious reasons. The additional applications have placed a toll on the Homes4wilts team. Additional resources have been brought in and also colleagues from the housing options and homelessness teams have stepped in to help address the increase. If the supply of affordable housing does not catch up the inevitable consequence will be that households will wait longer before being rehoused. The service manages this through the coordination of various affordable housing supplies primarily to meet homelessness demand. That is through the temporary accommodation supply and increasingly the property provided by Stone Circle Housing company. There is every reason to believe demand will increase significantly in 2021 when Courts start hearing more possession proceedings.
- In partnership with agencies who work with rough sleepers we have completed our annual rough sleepers count which was done in the early hours of the morning at the end of November. Figures are due to be verified shortly by government but are not that different to our September quarterly count .

Anti-social behaviour

- Next steps are being taken with the wider ASB group to define ASB, it's types, their links and differences to then understand applicable and effective responses. The Salisbury City Centre group are keen to resolve issues closer to the root and positively.
- National PHE guidance supports our approach to work in an intensive, person-centred, strengths focused way with clients as equal partners in this process and a blueprint is being developed.

Substance misuse

- We continue to work closely with Motiv8, who support children with substance misuse, on their digital offer.
- Turning Point, who support adults with substance misuse, continue to support those most vulnerable. Their online offer continues to grow as do online workshops.
- Dual diagnosis work is progressing and pathways for both adults and children are close to being finalised.

BSW Mental Health / Learning Disability / Autism

- Bringing partners and localities together to co-design a response to the national community services framework for mental health.
- AWP have undertaken a bed base review which was undertaken with partners and CCG localities.
- The system has restarted the learning disability and autism spectrum condition programme (and the 18-25 pathway)

Care, Safeguarding and Education Theme – additional information

FACT

- The FACT Executive and Operational Boards continue to oversee the delivery of the revised programme structure focussing on the agreed priority projects;
 - Early Support Assessment - implementation plan
 - Inclusive approaches - alternative education provision
 - Young People's Service - multi agency staffing, Contextual Safeguarding and data sharing related to Child Exploitation
 - School Readiness - speech, language and communication in the early years
 - Integrated Working - MH/LD/ASD
 - Transitional Safeguarding - older adolescents and young adults
- The current focus is on ensuring each project has an effective multi-agency project board driving its progress and a clear set of objectives and milestones.
- The FACT Operational Board is planning to hold a workshop session during March/April 2021 to reflect on the impact that COVID-19 has had upon services and service; the outcome of these discussions will inform current and potential future FACT projects.

Community Resilience Theme -additional information

With the move out of national lockdown and into tier 2 the Community Resilience recovery continues to focus work on activities that address inequalities deepened by COVID-19 and on enabling and supporting communities to undertake compliant activity during lockdown to support, in particular, loneliness, isolation, youth provision and mental health.

A youth provision task and finish group is promoting networking across youth organisations in Wiltshire, enabling them to better share learning and information and to connect with statutory services within Wiltshire Council. The group will also review funding from Area Boards to Youth Services and work with those Area Boards where there are opportunities to bridge the gaps in provision in the rural parts of the county.

Further work to understand how inclusive and diverse the sector is will also be undertaken focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on minority groups to help understand if youth provision is picking up on this need and meeting it, or if there a gap that will lead to reduced opportunity for these young people.

Community spaces

The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre has re-opened enabling 26 visits per day.

Active Communities continues to support residents utilising online resources on its website. An active communities advent calendar was released through December via social media.

Wiltshire Community Foundation, Community First and Public Health held a webinar for 66 participants to support community groups with guidance to open community spaces and groups safely.

Community Engagement

A series of recovery workshops, Area Boards, partnership meetings have been delivered during the latter half of 2020. Comprehensive reports will be taken to the Area Boards early in 2021 identifying key priority themes based on data and community feedback.

Regular meetings and partnership working continues with VCS partners, Town and Parish Clerks, Community groups and Faith Leaders.

Recovery community engagement activity across the partnership system has been mapped seeking to enable a joined-up approach to connecting activity.

Inequalities workstream

We are continuing to collate and monitor the data on the impact of COVID-19 on inequality groups in Wiltshire in order to ensure we are able to support our communities to target activity to address emerging issues, and link into other Recovery themes as needed to provide targeted support.

Opportunities to build on our data include the VCS Impact Survey (currently live), a series of targeted, informal engagement sessions with specific groups, and a proposal for an academic research piece on the hidden voices of the pandemic in Wiltshire. The latter comes with a financial cost and options for supporting this are being explored.

The group is assisting BSW CCG Engagement Team with roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine, helping them to engage with marginalised groups who are less likely to come forward, whether because they aren't registered with a GP, have communication or transport barriers, or have lack of understanding or trust in the vaccination process.

Good progress by the "Get Connected" multiagency digital inclusion group: AbilityNet taking over the work previously carried out by Wiltshire Online Digital Champions, working with older people to improve digital skills, another project had delivery of 50 Chromebooks to be distributed to those without equipment. Julian House linked in

with the group to address specific needs of Gypsy, traveller and boater communities with the potential for these groups to benefit from Project Mercury (Army technicians have been renovating old laptops for reuse in the community).

Appendix 2- Key government updates provided since last Cabinet report

- Guidance was issued on 29 November 2020 in relation to [Christmas bubbles](#). This was [revised](#) on 19 December 2020 due to increases of cases.
- Evidence published 30 November 2020 on [the health, economic and social effects of COVID 19 and the tiered approach](#)
- From Monday 14 December the [self isolation period](#) for people identified as being a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 changed from 14 days to 10 days (with the exception of those in certain health and care settings).
- Publication of guidance for the [Christmas Support Payment \(CSP\)](#) for wet-led pubs that have been severely impacted over the Christmas period due to temporary local restrictions
- Announcement on 30 November that retailers will be able to [extend their daily opening hours](#) from Monday to Saturday in the run up to Christmas and through January.

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Cabinet

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2021 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Philip Whitehead (Chairman), Cllr Richard Clewer (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Toby Sturgis and Cllr Bridget Wayman

Also Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Atiquil Hoque, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Brian Mathew, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe MBE, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill

148 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

149 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020.

150 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

151 **Leader's announcements**

There were no Leader announcements.

152 **Public participation and Questions from Councillors**

Questions were received from the following members of public:

- Chris Caswill - Chippenham HIF – Bid Publication, Highways England Publication and HIF Consultation
- Ian James – Statement on Chippenham HIF Consultation

Cllr Whitehead explained that due to the proximity of this meeting to the Christmas and New Year holidays the questions would receive written responses after the meeting, copies of which are attached at the appendix to these minutes. He confirmed that the questions received had been published on the Council's website prior to the meeting.

In addition to the above public questions, a number were received from the following Councillors:

- Cllr Chris Hurst – Parking on double yellow lines, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett
- Cllr Ian Thorn – Chippenham HIF Bid – Key milestones for the delivery of the bid

Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Wayman responded verbally at the meeting to the above questions received from Councillors. The responses are attached in the appendix to these minutes.

153 **COVID-19 Update**

Cllr Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications introduced the report which provided a summary of the key activities to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in Wiltshire since the last update to Cabinet in December 2020.

Cllr Whitehead explained that since the publication of the report the Prime Minister has announced a national lockdown which started on 5 January 2021, instructing people to stay at, continue to protect the NHS and save lives.

The Chief Executive commented on the guidelines recently received from Government and the following issues:

- The importance of personal responsibility
- The work undertaken by headteachers and Council teams to provide remote learning
- The closure of school except for the vulnerable and children of key workers
- The closure of certain non-retail shops, leisure centres etc
- Care Home visits
- Grants for businesses and individual
- Wedding ceremonies, funerals and places of worship
- House moves
- Availability of the Wellbeing Hub
- Parks and open spaces
- The delivery of budgets and elections

- Support for vaccinations
- Maintaining the opening of Day Centres

Officers provided updates for their service areas, as detailed in the report, covering the following areas - Test and Trace, mass testing, mass vaccinations, outbreak management, community spaces and engagement, wellbeing hub, care homes, health and care, education, economy, safe spaces, organisational recovery, financial, legal and safeguarding implications.

Cllr Whitehead thanked officers for their continued hard work and resilience during this difficult and testing time.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills provided reassurance that following discussions with the Interim Corporate Director People and Director, Education & Skills, the provision of digital devices and free school meals have been addressed.

Cllr Pip Ridout, Chair of the Financial Planning Task Group, reported that Financial Planning Scrutiny Task Group met on 4 January 2021 to consider the Cabinet report. Cllr Graham Wright, Chair of the Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group explained that the four Select Committees would be meeting during January 2021 to consider the report further. He also thanked officers for the outstanding work undertaken during this difficult time.

In response to questions, comments and issues raised by Councillors, officers explained the following:

- The Winter Grant Scheme is live and 90% of the funds have been distributed to 9,133 eligible children via 239 schools. The Scheme runs until 31 March 2021.
- Free school meal funding of £15 per week over the Christmas period would be sufficient for each eligible child and administered by the school.
- Increases in Universal Credit and other benefits has not been realised at this stage, although an increase in demand is anticipated along with the subsequent impact on Council finances.
- Financial underspends continue and are the consequence, in a number of circumstances to the current COVID-19 situation, it is expected that increased demand will be experienced in the next financial year and this would be managed by transfer of funds into earmarked reserves.
- Residents in Two Care Homes have now received vaccinations and the emergence of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccination is more transportable than the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. It was understood that some Wiltshire residents who lived on the border with neighbouring Authorities had received their vaccinations from within those neighbouring Authorities.
- Front line health workers are included in Group 2 to receive the vaccine and would be notified when they will receive the vaccine.
- There is an awareness that not all elderly people have the necessary laptops or smart phones to receive details about vaccinations dates. It is

understood that doctor surgeries would also be sending letters out to residents.

- There are no capacity constraints at testing centres in Wiltshire, although the number of people receiving tests was increasing along with the number of positive tests.
- It is expected that anticipated demand for digital devices would be met by schools and the Council.
- Recent visits to schools by Ofsted referred to Covid Assurance visits for those schools with pre-existing judgement of 'inadequate'.
- Vulnerable residents required to shield would be informed by letter from the Government.
- The claim rate in Wiltshire for the self-employed grant.
- Applicants for the Self Isolation Payment Scheme are required to provide evidence of their need for the payment. A team is in place to administer the payment scheme.
- The grant process for the Local Restrictions Support Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant are administered in blocks of time, with eligible businesses being able to apply for the grants up to the end of January 2021.
- The availability of the Wellbeing Hub to offer support and advice to voluntary organisations, and the need to keep volunteers safe during the COVID-19 situation.
- Consideration would be given to the support given to those residents who rely on the use of car parks in relation to car parking charges.

Resolved:

- 1. Continue to encourage all residents to download the NHS Test and Trace app on their phone.**
- 2. Encourage all residents to answer a call received from 0300 456 0100 as it may be the local contact tracing team within the Council**
- 3. Continue to encourage all residents to follow national guidance**
- 4. To note the financial forecast as detailed within the report**
- 5. To note changes in national policy and the work underway within the Recovery Coordinating Group themes.**

Reason for Decision:

Wiltshire Council continues to work closely with partners to deliver in a rapidly changing environment.

154 **Nursing care contracts**

Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection introduced the report which provided a number of proposals for the successful recommissioning and procurement of nursing and residential care capacity.

Cllr Jacobs explained that the existing nursing block and residential/nursing frameworks were coming to an end in March 2021 and a new commissioning and procurement platform for care homes activity was required.

Cllr Pip Ridout, Chair of the Financial Planning Task Group, Cllr Chuck Berry, Chair and Cllr Gordon King, Vice-Chair of the Health Select Committee reported that they had received a briefing on 4 January 2021. The Councillors explained that they welcomed and support the proposals as set out in the report.

In response to a question from Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Cllr Jacobs explained that the proposals were made in a timely manner and reflect the new platform for the commissioning and procurement of residential beds in Wiltshire.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the development and implementation of a new commissioning and procurement platform for nursing and residential beds in Wiltshire. This platform will be in the form of a pseudo-dynamic purchasing system known as the 'Care Home Alliance', or 'Alliance'.**
- 2. To note that under the Alliance, 'Draw Down Contracts' can be tendered for by the providers who are Alliance members. This enables the Council to be more flexible if it needs to tender at short notice as it has due to COVID and winter pressures.**
- 3. As identified in appendix 1 (Indicative Procurement Timeline) of the report, the Alliance will commence on 8th February 2021. The first 'Draw Down Contracts' will be tendered in February 2021 with contract commencement on 1st April 2021. These contracts will be for:**
 - a) Block contract nursing beds**
 - b) Framework contract beds for both nursing and residential care**
 - c) 'Passive' nursing and residential care services required on an ad-hoc basis (as identified in the Alliance tender documentation) to enable the Council to quickly and compliantly secure services in response to urgent system need and its strategic priorities.**
- 4. To delegate authority to make decisions connected with the procurement and award new contracts and all associated documents to the Director Joint Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection and the Corporate Director of Resources.**
- 5. That officers will continue to assess demand and market conditions and urgent care system needs to review the level of block beds required under the Alliance.**

Reason for Decision:

A new commissioning approach to secure value for money nursing and residential care capacity is required due to the expiry of existing contracts and market conditions, which remain challenging.

155 **Porton Science Park - Collaborative Innovation Centre**

Cllr Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications introduced the report which provided an update about (i) increased costs of delivery of the Innovation Centre; (ii) revenue projection for the Centre's initial years of operation; and (iii) entering funding agreements with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP).

Cllr Whitehead explained that the project is now at a stage where the Council can enter into contract with MHCLG, and delegated authority is being sought to sign the Funding Agreement for the European Funding. He reported that although the overall costs for the preferred option had increased, work with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership and securing other funding would cover the costs. It was noted that the breakeven point for the centre remains at year six assuming an occupancy rate of 70% is reached within three years of opening.

Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Chair and Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Vice-Chair of the Environment Select Committee reported that they had received a briefing on 17 December 2020 and expressed their support for the proposals. The proposals also received wide ranging support from Councillors.

Resolved:

- 1. To delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Commercial Development; to enter into a Funding Agreement with MHCLG for the ERDF £2.5m grant funding.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Commercial Development; to enter into a Funding Agreement with the SWLEP for the GBF £2m grant funding.**
- 3. To note the adjusted revenue profile in light of changes to the level and type of lettable space in the revised building design.**

Reason for Decision:

- To ensure the Council can drawdown European match funding for the project, before the ERDF programme finishes*
- To ensure the Council can secure additional funding to cover the building costs, meet environmental requirements and provide for project risk*

- *To offer flexible space for meetings and a collaborative laboratory space supported by existing ultrafast broadband provision, as well as creative and recreational space to support networking at the new centre*
- *To progress delivery of Porton Science Park, in partnership with SWLEP, MHCLG and campus partners Dstl and PHE.*

156 **Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy Funding to manage phosphates in the River Avon Special Area of Conservation**

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property introduced the report which provided (i) confirmation of the Council’s strategic approach to securing phosphate neutral development in the catchment area of the River Avon (Hampshire) Special Area of Conservation to support delivery of development, particularly new homes; and (ii) to agree to ring-fence and commit a sum of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy strategic funds accrued for the delivery of mitigation measures and funding of project officer to secure phosphate neutral development in the period to 2026.

Cllr Sturgis explained that the funding will be directed to delivering a strategic programme to ensure phosphate neutrality in perpetuity, such as large-scale habitat schemes, which will in time replace the current less efficient approach of incrementally identifying small scale measures (e.g. woodland or wetland creation).

Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrats raised questions about the acceptable level of phosphates, impact on Wiltshire watercourses from other areas, the use of CIL funds, and the impact on phosphates levels from developments. In response, Cllr Sturgis referred to the Habitat Regulations and securing phosphate neutral developments to the satisfaction of Natural England; that prioritisation CIL spending more generally is a Cabinet matter that he was the responsible member for; and other neighbouring Authorities such as Hampshire and Dorset are also impacted by phosphates.

In response to other general questions and comments, Cllr Sturgis explained that OFWAT reviewed water authorities pricing and investment in sewage treatment works which had implications for amount of phosphates removed; DEFRA requires farmers to maintain soil health and reduce fertiliser use; and the decision to accept the proposals would help to release some embargoed planning applications; He also noted that the report is specific to the River Avon Special Area of Conservation.

Resolved:

- 1. Confirms that the Council will, until such time as the responsibility falls to others, adopt a strategic approach to secure in perpetuity measures to ensure development is phosphate neutral in the catchment for the River Avon (Hampshire) Special Area of Conservation; including short term temporary measures followed up by long term strategic mitigation measures, such as a large**

scale habitat creation scheme, to ensure in perpetuity phosphate neutrality;

2. Confirms that the strategic approach will include monitoring with annual reporting, to take an evidence led approach to ensure that phosphate offsets arising from the measures secured keep pace with permissions granted;
3. Agrees to ring-fence and commit an initial fund of £850,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy strategic funds for the delivery of off-setting measures to achieve phosphate neutral development and fund a project officer to oversee delivery, monitoring and reporting; and
4. Delegates authority for the Interim Corporate Director of Place and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Investment and Interim Corporate Director of Resources to oversee the spending of this fund.

Reason for Decision:

To demonstrate the Council's commitment to the delivery of, and allocation of funding for, a strategic solution to secure phosphate neutral development including a dedicated project officer; unlocking development in the catchment of the River Avon (Hampshire) Special Area of Conservation. The project officer will also have the capability to help address similar issues of nitrate neutrality for development in the catchment of the River Test that affects wildlife sites in the Solent.

157 **A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (Stonehenge) Road Improvement Scheme**

Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Waste introduced the report which provided an update about A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (Stonehenge) road improvement scheme.

A statement and questions were received from Adrian Temple-Brown about and the use of technology to reduce Co2 emissions in relation to the A303 build. Cllr Whitehead acknowledged that the statement and questions had been published on the Council's website prior to the meeting and would receive responses following this meeting. He also indicated that unacceptable language used in statements and questions would not be tolerated and the questioner would be asked to remove such comments from their statements/questions.

Cllr Wayman reported that the road scheme was a nationally significant infrastructure project promoted by Highways England and highlighted the key features of the scheme. She also explained the process involved in achieving development consent for the proposals. In addition, Cllr Wayman introduced a further recommendation at 3 (f) to minimise disruption to settlements alongside

the A303 during the construction phase. The proposals received wide support from Councillors.

Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Chair of the Environment Select Committee reported that he had received a full briefing on the proposals on 15 December 2020 and he would encourage the further dualling of the A303 further west.

In response to a question from Cllr Robert Yuill about the benefits to the local community of the Highway England designated fund scheme, Cllr Wayman explained that she would provide a written response following the meeting.

Resolved:

- 1. Welcome the Secretary of State's decision regarding the A303 Stonehenge Development Consent Order.**
- 2. To agree the proposed recurring budget of £300,000 within the Highways budget for the A303 Stonehenge scheme until 2026/27.**
- 3. Agree the delegation of authority to the Director Transport and Environment to:**
 - a) Continue to input into the scheme by providing consultation responses to the various plans and documents being produced by Highways England for inclusion within the consultation reports to be considered by the Secretary of State**
 - b) Negotiate and agree the level of maintenance contributions associated with the de-trunked and local road elements, including public rights of way, of the scheme**
 - c) Agree the design and construction of the new local roads and rights of way, or alterations of existing arising from the scheme.**
 - d) Agree and implement any associated traffic regulation measures arising from or required by the scheme**
 - e) Approve the heritage management plans, site specific written schemes of investigation and method statements for the archaeological mitigation works and to monitor and approve the archaeological fieldwork.**
 - f) Work with Highways England to minimise disruption to our settlements alongside the A303 during the construction phase.**

Reason for Decision:

The case for dualling the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down has long been established through promoting economic growth in the South West, increasing safety, improving connectivity with neighbouring regions and protecting and enhancing the environment and the world heritage site.

In order to fulfil its statutory duties promptly regarding the construction and implementation of this important road improvement scheme it is considered appropriate to delegate authority to the Director Transport and Environment in connection with this scheme.

158 **Procurement of Framework contract for temporary agency staff**

Cllr Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts & Tourism, Housing and Communities introduced the report seeking approval to proceed with a procurement for the supply of temporary agency staff, and following this procurement process, to delegate the award of the subsequent contract and potential extension (if utilised) in line with the proposal set out in the report.

Cllr Clewer reported that the council's current contract for the supply of agency staff was awarded in 2017 for three years plus an optional extension year. The extension year was used in 2019 giving a contract end date of 21 September 2021. He explained that the tender will be run against an Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) framework that replaced the one under which the Council previously procured the current temporary agency contract.

In response to a question from Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Cllr Clewer confirmed that the estimated contract value of £24m did include the contractor's fees.

Resolved:

- 1. That officers continue to undertake the tender programme, award and implement a new contract to replace the existing contract expiring on 21 September 2021.**
- 2. That following this tender programme, that Cabinet delegate the subsequent authority to award a new contract for a duration of three years with an optional additional extension year, with a total estimated value of £24 million to the Director for HR&OD following consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance and the Director for Legal & Governance.**
- 3. That Cabinet delegate the authority to approve any subsequent optional extension periods to the Director for HR&OD, subject to satisfactory performance and following appropriate consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance and the Director for Legal and Governance.**

Reason for Decision:

The Council has an ongoing requirement for temporary agency staff to deliver its business and a contract to ensure a supply of temporary agency staff meets this need.

159 **Wiltshire Council Adoption Service: 2020/21 Q1-2, 6 Month Report**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills introduced the report which provided an interim six-month report about the adoption performance within the Families and Children's Service of Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Mayes explained that it was a statutory requirement that regular assurance reports are provided regarding the Council's responsibility for the adoption of children. For this reporting period the main area of focus being in relation to the Service and outcomes for Wiltshire's children who need to be adopted, ensuring that appropriate matches are made and that children move to live with their adoptive families in a timely way. In doing this, it is necessary to consider the effectiveness of Adoption West, the partnership organisation that has responsibility for recruiting, assessing and approving adopters for Wiltshire children. The Cabinet noted details about adoption orders for quarters 1 and 2, that the Council continues to work closely with Adoption West and details about comparative performance showing continued improvement.

Cllr Graham Wright, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee reported that Cllr John Hubbard, Chair of Adoption West Joint Scrutiny Panel would provide an update once the Scrutiny Panel had met on 20 January 2021.

In response to a question from Cllr Gavin Grant, officers confirmed that Adoption West had placed children with Wiltshire families from neighbouring Authorities from within the Adoption West boundary, details of the number of placements would be included in future six monthly reports.

Resolved: That the Adoption Service 2020/21 Q1-2 6 month report be noted and adopted.

Reason for Decision:

Wiltshire Council is an Adoption Agency registered with Ofsted. The 2014 Adoption Minimum Standards (25.6) and 2013 Statutory Guidance (3.93 and 5.39) describe the information that is required to be regularly reported to the executive side of the local authority to provide assurance that the adoption agency is complying with the conditions of registration whilst being effective and achieving good outcomes for children and service users.

160 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.30 pm)

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Children’s Select Committee Forward Work Programme

Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020

Children’s Select Committee – Current / Active Task Groups		
Task Group	Start Date	Final Report Expected

Children’s Select Committee - Rapid Scrutiny		
Topic	Details	Date

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / Purpose of Report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
Standing items (at all meetings)					
	DfE Changes - Update from Department for Education	A report presenting an update on developments relating to children's services arising from the Department for Education.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Nicola McCann
	School Ofsted Judgements	A report which includes information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports. It will provide an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Louise Lewis
	Update from Wiltshire Youth Union Representative	An update including a summary of recent activities of the Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU), the Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB) and the Children in Care Council (CiCC).	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Gary Binstead
19 January 2021					
19 Jan 2021	Pre-meeting information briefing - Safeguarding (Ofsted self-assessment)	To receive a presentation explaining the self-assessment process linked to Ofsted inspections.			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
19 Jan 2021	Chairman's announcement - CAMHS final task group report and Executive response	For the Chairman to update the committee on the consideration of the final report and Executive response by the Health Select Committee on 12 January 2021.			
19 Jan 2021	Safeguarding (including Performance monitoring)	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - that a report be brought to the committee in about 6 months, to provide information on what the council does as a whole regarding safeguarding and what it is planning to do, including input from the Safeguarding Board. Due to Covid-19 priorities this may be a short report.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
19 Jan 2021	Cabinet - COVID-19 Update and Financial Update	To consider the last update provided to Cabinet with regards to topics within the remit of the Children's Select Committee			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
02 March 2021					
2 Mar 2021	Pre-Meeting Information Briefing: Children Accessing Alternative Educational Provision	To receive the topic as a pre-meeting briefing following the resolution from the 5th March 2019 Children's Select Committee meeting.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
2 Mar 2021	FACT update	<p>Following consideration of update on 10 March 2020:</p> <p>Request an update for March 2021. The Chair and Vice-chair will identify specific areas for update from the report considered today and inform officers accordingly. The update should include more figures for improved outcome for young people and also figures on savings / costs avoided to demonstrate the impact of the FACT programme.</p> <p>For example number of Five to Thrive champions trained, outcome / learning from the Multi-Agency Use of CMS, outcome of performance reviews, etc.</p>	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
2 Mar 2021	Early Years & Childcare places across Wiltshire	To receive information on places available (and demand) in Early Years and Childcare settings across Wiltshire			
2 Mar 2021	Update on UK Youth Parliament and the council's Youth Consultants	To receive an update on the impact of Covid-19 for members of Youth Parliament (including whether or not their term will be renewed) and on the work of the Youth Consultant. This will also be an opportunity to receive information on any future plans.			
2 Mar 2021	Executive Response to the Final Report of the Youth Transport Task Group			Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste	Marie Gondlach
2 Mar 2021	Executive Response to the Final Report of the Traded Services for Schools Task group		Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Marie Gondlach

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
2 Mar 2021	Overview and Scrutiny Review – 2017-2021	An opportunity for the select committee to review its key pieces of work and approach during this council term and make recommendations to its successor committee following the local elections in May 2021. Recommendations will be considered by OS Management Committee on 9 March 2021.			Marie Gondlach
<p>Items for consideration (legacy report)</p> <p>The items below are kept on this forward work programme (without a date assigned) as they have been deferred, either due to Covid-19 or other work priorities, but should be considered by the committee when it prepares its legacy report.</p> <p>The legacy report will be approved in March 2021 and will list priorities and areas of work this committee recommends for scrutiny post-elections (May 2021).</p>					

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	School Improvement Programme	As agreed at the 10 March 2020 meeting (schools Ofsted judgments) to receive a report on implementation / progress of the school improvement programme. (NB with pre-meeting briefing as well)			
	Elective Home Education (including for Children with SEND)	Item follows the resolution from the 5th March 2019 Children's Select Committee: "To receive further data and analysis in 12 months on children with SEND receiving Elective Home Education."	Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Jen Salter
	Performance monitoring report	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - that the committee receives performance monitoring reports on the overall service (following on from the pre-meeting briefing at the November meeting on the council's self-assessment process), likely to be June (to consider the year-end data from the previous year) then January meetings.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	Troubled families programme - update	As agreed at the meeting on 10 March 2020 (DfE changes) to receive an update on troubled families programme.			
	Draft annual Corporate Parenting Panel Report	To consider the draft annual Corporate Parenting Panel before it is presented to Full Council on 20 October 2020.			Lisa Pullin
	Corporate Parenting bi-annual report	To consider the mid-year annual report from Corporate Parenting	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Lisa Pullin

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	Wiltshire School Improvement Programme - update	<p>As agreed at the 21 January 2020 meeting:</p> <p>To receive an update (after summer 2020), including specific measurable evidence of impact on pupil outcomes of the new way of working, as part of the School Performance report, where possible including direct feedback from schools (on receiving the support). If possible a diagram showing the new way of working / system.</p>			
	Young Carers in Wiltshire - update	As agreed at the 21 January 2020 meeting to receive information following the chair and vice-chair meeting with relevant officers to review the scope of a potential task group or rapid scrutiny with regards to Young Carers in Wiltshire.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Marie Gondlach

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	Performance monitoring report	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - that the committee receives performance monitoring reports on the overall service (following on from the pre-meeting briefing at the November meeting on the council's self-assessment process), likely to be June (to consider the year-end data from the previous year) then January meetings.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
	Health Outcomes for Wiltshire children	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - to receive a report on the current scrutiny by the council (including information on the current and planned work on this topic of the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership) to explore how the council can best scrutinise what partners (and providers) are doing to provide health outcomes for Wiltshire children.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	Outcomes for Disadvantaged Learners	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - the council's current work and aspirations.		Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
	Update on the implementation of FACT (Families And Children's Transformation)	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome). To received regular updates on the implementation of FACT (Families And Children's Transformation) during 2019-20.			
	Pre-meeting briefing: recruitment of in-house foster carers	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - a pre-meeting briefing on the recruitment of in-house foster carers, if possible including "known issues" and the numbers of in-house foster carers for both Wiltshire and comparator authorities (if these are recorded / reported) compared to demand / need.			

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	Pre-meeting briefing: Outcomes for Disadvantaged learners	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - council's current work and aspirations			
	Pre-meeting briefing: real-life skills package for care leavers	As approved at CSC on 12 November 2019 (OS/executive meeting outcome) - what the council provide for care leavers in terms of "real life" skills (e.g. cooking, managing money, getting ready for employment, etc.), including the package provided by key workers.			
	Pre-meeting briefing - Five to Thrive	As agreed at the 10 March 2020 meeting (FACT update) to organise a briefing for members on the Five to Thrive training programme.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
	Pre-meeting Briefing - MASH and early support	As agreed at the 10 March 2020 meeting (FACT update) to organise a briefing for members on the MASH / early support (may include tour of the MASH)	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	

Children's Select Committee – Forward Work Programme			Last updated 17 DECEMBER 2020		
Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
	Pre-meeting Briefing: FACT programme	As agreed at the 10 March 2020 meeting (FACT update) to organise a briefing for members on the FACT programme.	Lucy Townsend (Director - Children's Services)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
	Pre-meeting Briefing - School Improvement Programme	As agreed at the 10 March 2020 meeting (schools Ofsted judgments) to organise a briefing for members on the school improvement programme.	Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	
	Pre-meeting briefing - School Funding	Following consideration at meeting on 10 March 2020: To have a pre-meeting briefing on school funding ahead of council's budget setting next year (19 January 2021).	Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)	Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills	Marie Taylor

