

Report to	Group Leaders
Date of meeting	28 May 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Richard Mainon /Judith Greenhalgh
Report author	Graham Boase
Title	Covid19 Recovery; Interim arrangements for updating and involving Members

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. Proposed interim arrangements for discussion on how Cabinet and SLT intend to keep the wider Council Membership updated regarding the Recovery response to Covid19

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. For Group Leaders to consider and agree the proposed interim arrangements for keeping Members updated on the Council's Recovery response to Covid19.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. Group Leaders support the approach as laid out in this Report and attached Appendix 1.

4. Report details

4.1 To date the main focus of SLT and Cabinet has been on responding to the Covid19 emergency. Whilst dealing with the emergency response is still important, we now need to prioritise developing and implementing the Council's Covid19 Recovery Plan.

4.2 SLT and Cabinet have considered the broad "themes" that our Recovery Plan should include, along with which members of SLT/Cabinet might lead on those

themes. The proposed themes and leads are included as **Appendix 1** to this report. The general principle being the leads for each theme will work closely together, with the SLT lead reporting back to SLT and the Cabinet Leads reporting back to informal Cabinet/Cabinet as appropriate. The Cabinet and SLT leads will need to identify priorities for each theme (considering capacity, logistics, risks, needs, expectations etc), align service priorities with these arrangements and implement safe ways of working for staff and residents.

4.3 In accordance with our established procedures, decisions regarding recovery will either be delegated to the relevant Officer or via the formal Lead Member Delegated Decisions or at formal Cabinet. The exact route for each decision will be determined during the discussions between the relevant leads, including discussions at SLT and Informal Cabinet.

4.4 Cabinet and SLT recognise the importance of keeping all Members informed and engaged in the formation and delivery of the Recovery Plan. However it is unlikely that “normal” procedures will be established immediately, hence the need for interim arrangements to be agreed between Cabinet and Group Leaders.

4.5 Until established political arrangements, such as Scrutiny can be re-introduced it is proposed that the Leader and the Chief Executive (or their nominated substitutes) update Group Leaders via a weekly WebEx meeting.

4.6 These weekly meetings will comprise verbal updates on a range of matters but will increasingly focus on recovery. Where appropriate written reports will be provided in advance for consideration by Group Leaders. For certain issues a reasonable time for Group Leaders to consult with their Groups and provide feedback will be given.

4.7 In most cases it is considered matters for consideration will be relatively straight forward, the implementation of which will be delegated to Officers. However “high profile” and/or more “controversial” matters will need further consideration. These matters should form the focus of the weekly meetings, with feedback from the Groups via their Group Leaders helping to shape the proposals. If needed WebEx meetings with individual Groups could be arranged to further discuss such proposals. Ultimately the decisions on such matters are likely to be taken in the

usual way i.e. either via Lead Member Delegated Decision or Cabinet. Either of these two decision making routes will of course allow for “call in” and Scrutiny procedures in the normal way.

4.8 Given the current situation it is hoped that the need for decisions to be “called in” can be avoided through close working between Cabinet, Officers and the Groups via Group Leaders.

4.9 It is accepted that we are in unprecedented times and we hope the arrangements for engagement with the Political Groups via Group Leaders as laid out in this report represents a reasonable and acceptable interim compromise until we can return to “business as usual”. It is also accepted that these interim arrangements need to be flexible to address different circumstances and the need for urgent decisions.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. The Council’s short term Priority is to “recover” from the impacts of Covid19. The Recovery Themes in Appendix 1 will need to be developed having regard to the existing priorities in the Corporate Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. The cost of recovery is currently not known, but each Recovery Theme will have regard to costs. SLT, Cabinet and the Budget Board will retain an overview of the costs of recovery within the context of the overall budget position of the Council.

6.2. All service areas will be impacted by recovery.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. The Recovery Plan has not been subject to a Well-being Impact Assessment, although each Theme may need to consider the need for such an Assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. SLT and Cabinet have been involved in the development of the Recovery Themes and the detail in this report.

Chief Finance Officer Statement

8.2. Not considered necessary at this time.

What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

8.3. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

Power to make the decision

8.4. This is an internal process for Group Leaders to consider in light of the Covid19 emergency.

Proposed Recovery Themes & SLT/Cabinet Leads

Transitional Phase	Lead Officer / Lead Member
How to get services back up and running & buildings open in the short term as lockdown restrictions are gradually eased.	Alan Smith (working with relevant HoS) Cllr R Mainon (working with relevant Lead Members)
Business as Usual Phase Themes/Priorities	Lead Officer / Lead Member
Staffing	Catrin Roberts Cllr R Mainon
Democratic Processes	Gary Williams Leader & Cllr R Mainon
Finance	Steve Gadd Cllr J Thompson-Hill
Infrastructure – Council Buildings	Steve Gadd Cllr J Thompson-Hill
Infrastructure – Highways and Public Realm	Tony Ward Cllr B Jones
Infrastructure – Housing	Liz Grieve Cllr T Thomas

Business Support	Emlyn Jones Leader & Cllr M Young
Communications	Liz Grieve Cllr H Hilditch-Roberts
Community Resilience	Nicola Stubbins Cllr B Feeley
Schools	Karen Evans Cllr H Hilditch-Roberts
Embedding New Ways of Working	Alan Smith Cllr R Mainon
Review of Corporate Priorities	Graham Boase Leader
Denbighshire Leisure	Jamie Groves Cllr B Feeley