

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**22 APRIL 2021**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET INFORMATION ITEM**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides Cabinet with an update on COVID-19, 12 months on from the first lockdown, and the Council's response over this period. It identifies the impact of COVID-19 on the borough, and focuses on the impact on the Council, and the Council's response. It outlines the basis of response and recovery short, medium and long term.

**REASONS FOR PRODUCING THIS REPORT**

To ensure Cabinet are kept up to speed on the impact of COVID-19 and with the Council's response over the past 12 months.

**DETAIL**

**The impact and implications of COVID-19**

1. COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact globally, nationally and locally. Over 4m people have tested positive in the UK and over 120,000 people who have tested positive have died.
2. In Stockton-on-Tees as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, there have been 15,669 people who have had confirmed cases of COVID-19. There have been 490 COVID-19 related deaths registered for residents of Stockton-on-Tees.
3. Although the number and rate of cases and the death rate has been relatively low in Stockton-on-Tees, the impact on the economy and on people's way of life has been significant.

**Impact on the Council**

4. COVID-19 has also had a significant impact on the council and on staff, with significant numbers of staff working from home for a prolonged period, and a number of staff deployed into other roles to support the combined response.
5. The response from staff throughout the pandemic has been outstanding. The bulk of Annex 1 details the impact on the Council and outlines the response of the Council in continuing to

provide services, responding to the need to deliver services differently, and the many different roles played by Council staff in response. It is intended that this document is turned into a document we share with our staff and with partners and the local community to illustrate the Council's response.

6. Whilst operationally difficult, certainly in the early stages of the response, some of the changes made in response to the virus present opportunities for how the Council operates and how services are accessed in the future. It is important that the Council builds on this momentum and continues to adapt to changing behaviours. This forms a key element on the work outlined in the Council Plan 2021-24 for how the Council will continued to react, respond and lead the process of recovery.

### **Conclusions and next steps**

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the Borough's residents, its businesses and on the Council. The efforts of Council staff to implement resilience planning approaches, adjust services and ways of working in response are worthy of recognition. This report outlined the key elements of that response.
8. Work on the community recovery plan will continue, through a focus on the themes in the new Council Plan.

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