

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 18 May 2020

CONTACT OFFICER: Dean Tyler, Service Lead Strategy & Performance
(For all enquiries) 01753 875847

Ward All

Lead member: Councillor James Swindlehurst, Leader of the Council and
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Strategy

PART I **NON KEY DECISION**

SBC COVID 19 RECOVERY AND RENEWAL PLANNING

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To set out the Council's plans for recovery and renewal following our response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to resolve that the Council's plans for medium term recovery and long term renewal as an organisation, for Slough the place and our communities be agreed. Specifically to:

a) Develop two separate but related plans:

1. The 2 year recovery plan (Joe Carter)
2. The 5 year renewal plan (Stephen Gibson)

b) Establish a sub-group to work on planning reporting to the Recovery and Renewal Group

c) Establish a joint Working Group of Cabinet and Scrutiny to work together to contribute to the work.

2. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2020-24**

Coronavirus has the potential to impact on the delivery of all of the Wellbeing Board's priorities:

1. Starting Well
2. Integration
3. Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Building Community Asset Resilience)
4. Workplace Health

However the response to the crisis has demonstrated the strength of community and partnership working.

3. **Five Year Plan 2020-24 Outcomes**

Coronavirus has the potential to impact on the delivery of all of the Five Year Plan's priority outcomes:

Outcome 1 Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful

Outcome 2 Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

Outcome 3 Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay

Outcome 4 Our residents will live in good quality homes

Outcome 5 Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

4. **Other Implications**

- (a) **Financial** –There are no financial implications associated with the proposed actions, beyond Coronavirus itself. A separate report is being submitted on the Medium Term Financial Strategy
- (b) **Risk Management** – There are no identified risks to the proposed actions. A Covid 19 risk register has been prepared and forms part of the previous report on Covid 19 response planning.
- (c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** - There are no Human Rights Act implications associated with the proposed actions.
- (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment** - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment in relation to this report.

5. **Supporting information**

- 5.1 The introduction of the 'lockdown' by the UK government saw non-essential businesses close down and the population (with the exception of Key Workers) instructed to work from home to slow down the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The looming economic crash created by the closure of most businesses requires Slough Borough Council to reconsider existing strategies and introduce revised short and medium-term plans to respond to the inevitable health, wellbeing, social and financial aftershocks of the public health crisis.
- 5.2 Whilst these short to medium-term plans will introduce financial and social pressure points on the Council, the intention is that Recovery will make SBC a more resilient and inclusive organisation. If effective, the Recovery Strategy will help to establish '*the new norm*' for Slough and incorporate new dynamics into the existing Our Futures (transformation) Programme.

5.3 The purpose of this report is to recommend a Recovery Strategy that is based on the delivery of key outputs, outcomes and milestones in three distinct, yet inter-related stages. As follows:

Stage One	Response (see previous report)	1-5 months
Stage Two	Recovery	6-24 months
Stage Three	Renewal	25-60 months

5.4 The rationale is that by adopting this approach, we will be in a position to speed-up the Council's transition from Crisis Management/Business Continuity Planning to re-focusing on a place where people choose to live, work, shop, invest and do business and positioning Slough as the strategic partner of choice in SE England.

5.5 The attached slides (Appendix A) provide a high level analysis of the impacts of Covid 19 which are addressed by our emerging plans for recovery and renewal. These include accelerating much of our initial thinking that has informed the Our Futures transformation programme including:

- The importance of partnership and community working;
- The value of shared intelligence and data across the council and with partners to build a common picture of our communities so that we can use the insight to identify shared priorities; and
- The importance of addressing socio economic factors that contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

5.6 Our recovery and renewal planning will maintain the momentum developed during the initial response to tackling Covid 19. Despite the significant impacts of Covid 19 there have been positive outcomes including the strength of relationships and partnership working that have developed between the Council and within the voluntary, community and faith sectors. We have worked as One Slough to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society receive the support they need – the success of this community response has only been possible as a result of the partnerships in Slough. We are also keenly aware that some sectors of our community are at continued risk when Government funding ends, for example, those who are homeless with No Recourse to Public Funds.

6. **Comments of other committees**

6.1 This report has not been shared with any other committees. Cabinet and Scrutiny will work together to provide oversight of our recovery and renewal planning.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 Slough Borough Council has responded swiftly to mitigate the impacts of Coronavirus.

- 7.2 This report sets out our plans for recovery and renewal including ensuring that Our Futures work on service redesign reflects the lessons learned as a result of the response to Covid 19.
- 7.3 The Chief Executive and members of the Corporate Management Team have provided regular briefings available to all Councillors via video conferencing and similar opportunities will be made available as we work our way through the coming months.

8. Appendices attached

A – Recovery and Renewal planning (slides)

9. Background papers

None.