

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 14 July 2021

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(For all Enquiries)

WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT

COVID RECOVERY STRATEGY

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members of the Wellbeing Board on current progress to continue to develop actions for Covid Recovery including liaising with key partnerships to feed activities into a borough-wide Recovery Strategy.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

- 2.1 The Wellbeing Board is requested to note the report and presentation and contribute to the development of the Recovery Strategy to reflect the work of the Board.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

- 3.1 While Coronavirus has clearly impacted on the delivery of priorities in the Wellbeing Strategy and Five Year Plan, the response to the crisis has demonstrated the importance of the strength of community and partnership working.

4. Other Implications

- (a) **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the proposed actions, beyond Coronavirus itself.
- (b) **Risk Management** – There are no identified risks to the proposed actions in this report.
- (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 impact of the Covid pandemic has required a response at the global, national and local levels. In Slough, the pandemic has had a severe impact on

both the health and economy of Slough. Over a year into the outbreak, nearly 16,000 Slough residents had contracted the virus, and over 340 people from Slough had died with COVID-19 (May 2021). Covid has not gone away and, at the time of writing, cases are rising, driven by the Delta variant, and Slough is preparing for surge testing.

5.2 The pandemic has also impacted people's mental health and wellbeing, with people across the country reporting higher levels of stress and anxiety. The economy of Slough has also suffered, with unemployment rates rising across the town as the pandemic has progressed.

5.3 Slough's Covid recovery will be led through a partnership approach. The Recovery Strategy has three pillars:

- 1) Economy and skills;
- 2) Health and wellbeing; and
- 3) Children, young people and education.

5.4 The Strategy will have three broad phases of planning for recovery:

- A **response**/reopening phase, supporting the safe restarting of activity as restrictions are lifted, whilst continuing to respond to the immediate demands of the pandemic.
- A **recovery** phase, building confidence in the local economy, supporting businesses and employees/workers as government support is withdrawn.
- A **renewal** phase where activities and policies to support long term plans are put in place to deliver sustainable improvements in social, economic and environmental outcomes.

5.5 Coming out of crises can be a good opportunity to refocus priorities, reflecting on the impact of the crisis and resetting policy goals accordingly. Key priorities will include tackling inequalities, pursuing a greener economy, building resilience, and promoting digital solutions.

5.6 While it is recognised that a lot of Wellbeing activity is still focused on the Response phase through necessity, this report is intended to provide colleagues with an opportunity to contribute to the Recovery Strategy.

6. Comments of Other Committees

6.1 The Children and Young People's Partnership reviewed these slides in May and endorsed the approach, whilst emphasising the need to keep inclusivity at the forefront. We will be working with the Regeneration Economy and Skills Board to identify activity around the economy and skills as a key enabler of Recovery.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 An updated Recovery Strategy and Recovery Road Map with recommendations will be brought to the Slough Leaders Group in Autumn 2021, informed by the aims of the Slough 2040 Vision, the Inclusive Growth Strategy and up to date community and business engagement and data. The group's role will be to:

- Confirm or amend the Recovery Strategy, Road Map and vision;
- Identify the major challenges or areas of weakness facing the borough in meeting that vision;
- Include standing challenges and those arising from Covid;
- Identify emerging issues or opportunities in achieving the vision that would benefit from a collaborative approach;
- Work together, and with other partners across the borough, to make recommendations for solutions to those challenges.

8. **Appendices Attached**

Appendix A - Presentation slides

9. **Background Papers**

None