

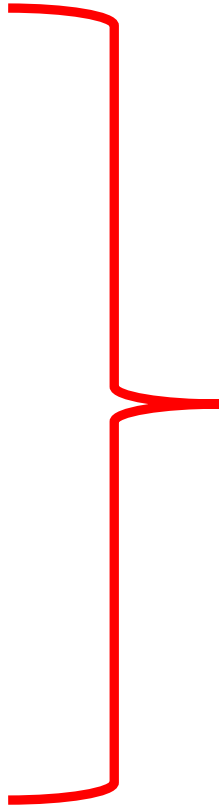
Covid-19: Phase 1 Recovery and Phase 2 Response

Report for Overview and Scrutiny

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, Leader
Zina Etheridge, Chief Executive

Since the end of May

- Phased re-opening of Council services
- Support for the safe re-opening of local economy
- Continued support for public health messaging
- Proactive enforcement of Covid restrictions – working with the Police
- Local outbreak management
- Increasing access to testing
- Community support
- Supporting the safe re-opening of schools in September
- Council-wide process to learn from Wave 1
- Recovery and Renewal alongside MTFS



Against the backdrop
of a constantly
changing local and
national context and
restrictions

Re-opening of Council Services (1/10)

As restrictions eased there was a planned and phased re-opening/re-starting of Council services. Underpinned by a strong risk-assessment process including the Health and Safety and Public Health teams. This included:

- Customer services
- Libraries
- Parking enforcement
- Playground and MUGAs
- Park Road and Tottenham Green leisure centres
- HfH non-urgent repairs
- Bruce Castle museum and archive
- Bruce Grove Youth Centre and the holiday activities programme

Other services eg Waste collection and enforcement continued throughout

Support for the safe re-opening of the local economy (2/10)

- Practical advice and support for businesses to re-open in a Covid-secure way – working with partners including Wood Green BID
- Supporting queue management in Wood Green during initial period after the re-opening of non-essential retail
- Pavement widening across the borough to support safe queuing
- Proactive education and engagement with restaurants, particularly during Eat Out to Help Out, to promote Covid-safe operation
- Promoting 'Shop Local' message on lamp posts and other communications materials and channels

Support for public health messaging (3/10)

- On-going and proactive communications campaign to promote the core public health messaging including:
 - Weekly update setting out all the key information and messages from Dr Will Maimaris, backed up with regular videos
 - Targeted materials in key community languages
 - Social media collateral aimed at younger audiences
 - Lamp post banners, digital screens and significant signage in parks
 - 3 letters to every household in the borough to ensure key messages reach households without digital access

Proactive enforcement of Covid restrictions – working with the Police (4/10)

- Working with the Police, Communications, Public Health and Economic Development, we have taken a proactive approach to enforcement throughout.
- Focused our activities on high foot fall areas and town centers such as Wood Green, West Green Road, Tottenham High Road, Muswell Hill, Crouch end.
- Since the end of the initial lockdown, the focus has been to ensure businesses comply with their statutory duties in relation to Test and Trace, Health & Safety, Infectious Disease and Outbreak Control.
- Throughout, the service has been working extensively with Police and meet twice a week. As things have developed the Police have increased their resources to meet the increasing workload associated with managing the new regulations, laws that have been implemented. This is welcome.

Local Outbreak Management (5/10)

- As the first lockdown came to an end the local role in outbreak management was acknowledged by Government and began to develop
- Developed and published a Local Outbreak Management Plan
- Significant, targeted work based on local data in areas with higher incidence particularly in the South East of the Borough
- Close monitoring and partnership working with care homes, schools, and care providers

Increasing access to testing locally (6/10)

- Testing continues to be largely run and overseen at a national level via NHS Test and Trace. However, we have successfully advocated and facilitated improved local access to testing including:
 - Alexandra Palace moved from mobile test site operating intermittently to a full Local Test Site open throughout the week
 - Additional Local Test Site opened at the Irish Centre.
 - Additional Stamford Hill site is now open
- The potential for the use of rapid Lateral Flow testing in Haringey is being explored

Community support (7/10)

Communities, mutual aid groups, and the voluntary and community sector played a hugely positive role in the first phase of the pandemic. We have continued to work closely with our communities in particular through the Community Enablement Group and Food Network. Alongside the Multi Faith Forum, VCS Forum, Bridge Renewal Trust and with Mutual Aid Groups via Connected Communities. This has included:

- Established Haringey Together as an online hub for getting and receiving support.
- Practical advice and support to the Haringey VCS throughout the pandemic including supporting access to external Covid response funding, guidance on reopening community settings, £500k of grant funding to support organisations with unavoidable costs and £100k for a rent break for community groups in Council buildings. This support is being continued with the establishment of a joint VCS Support Team working alongside the Bridge Renewal Trust to increase capacity building support for the sector on an ongoing basis.
- Created a local Food Partnership, working with our local Food Banks and other partners to collaboratively manage supply and need and to build a holistic support offer which addresses the causes of food need.

Supporting the safe re-opening of schools (8/10)

- Regular meetings with Heads throughout the pandemic – twice weekly during the most critical periods
- Proactive support ahead of initial re-opening in summer and then full re-opening in September including
 - Support with risk assessments
 - Health and Safety advice
 - Public Health support
 - Advice and support where confirmed cases have arisen
- On-going work in partnership with Haringey Education Partnership to support best practise and peer support for remote and blended learning

Council-wide process to learn from Wave 1 (9/10)

- All areas of the Council have reviewed the response to the first phase of the pandemic including learning points
- Review of efficacy of GOLD arrangements and establishment of SILVER board to provide additional operation level oversight
- Contributed to partner learning processes

Recovery and Renewal alongside MTFS (10/10)

- Structured R&R process reflecting the significant and diverse impacts of the pandemic on the borough, the Council and our partners
- Three key themes emerged:
 - economic recovery
 - health and wellbeing
 - strengthening our communities
- These are now informing our budget and MTFS processes for 2021 and beyond and will be reflected in a 'refresh' of the Borough Plan next year

Financial position of the Council

- 2020/21 position has improved with further resources coming from Government. However, this still does not meet the total cost of the pandemic to the authority.
- Impact on HRA has improved, but still forecast to impact by £4m in current year, due to reduced rent collections
- Draft 2021/22 budget will go to December Cabinet – this will show a worsened position from this time last year and a budget gap for next year before new savings of c. £17m, but with plans to ensure the Council sets a balanced budget for next year
- The Council will only be able to set a balanced budget if new savings proposals are agreed
- £1m for Haringey announced for the new Winter Grants scheme for support to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals

Covid challenges going forward

We are working on a planning scenario of:

- Coming out of lockdown on the PM's announced date
- London as a region will then move into one of the tiers – note we were in tier 2 previously
- Likely to be ongoing discouragement of indoor social mixing;
- Events like return of university students and Christmas may increase infection rates again and we need to be prepared for moving between tiers if infection rates do rise significantly (or reduce)
- Council officers are working through a range of scenarios to make sure we are prepared for future, including the interplay with end of the Brexit transition period.
- Looking forward we will be working hard with health colleagues to ensure that as Covid vaccinations become available all of our residents can access it, we ensure that those communities that suffer from health inequalities are reached, and communication is culturally competent.
- Councils increasingly being asked to take on more responsibility for testing and tracing.
- Continuing to roll out a 4 Es approach to supporting residents and businesses to stick to the guidance and rules