

**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL – COVID-19 UPDATE**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the impact of Covid-19 on the District of Newark & Sherwood. This report covers the three months since the Covid-19 report brought to Committee in June 2020.
- 1.2 The report will be divided into five sections:

**Section One: Council Services (3.0)**

Looking at activities and actions undertaken since June 2020 both continued 'business as usual' activities and new work streams which have been active since March 2020.

**Section Two: Business Support (4.0)**

This section considers the wide ranging support given to businesses during the pandemic and outlines the support given in the continued reopening of the district.

**Section Three: The Local Outbreak (5.0)**

The actions taken when Newark was an 'Area of Concern' due to a Local Outbreak and the actions taken to remove the area from the Government's National Watchlist

**Section Four: Workforce (6.0)**

A look at the way staff and members are adapting to work with Covid-19 safe systems.

**Section Five: Moving Forwards (7.0)**

This section outlines some of the issues that the District is likely to experience, and the tools and support in place, to help communities as we move from the Response to Recovery phases. This section of the report urges a note of caution as we move back to recovery, recognising that Covid-19 has not gone away and will be with us for some time to come. It is vital that we remain vigilant to keep our communities safe.

## 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The diagram below gives a summary update on activities:

<b>January 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The first cases of Covid-19 in China and Asia</li></ul>
<b>30 January 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern</li></ul>
<b>February 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Nottinghamshire LRF commence preparations for a pandemic</li></ul>
<b>4 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The Council stood up their Covid-19 emergency planning teams</li><li>•NSDC's Bronze, Silver &amp; Gold teams met at least weekly</li></ul>
<b>11 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•World Health Organisation characterizes Covid-19 as a pandemic</li></ul>
<b>16 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Social distancing measures put in place nationally</li></ul>
<b>17 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Leisure centres, NCWC and Palace Theatre closed</li></ul>
<b>18 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Announcement of measures to assist businesses and employees through the Covid-19 crisis including furlough scheme</li></ul>
<b>20 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The Council create the 'HART' team to help the district's residents through the pandemic</li></ul>
<b>23 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•20:30 Commencement of nation wide lockdown</li></ul>
<b>25 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Nottinghamshire community support and volunteering hub contact number goes live</li><li>•The Council commence new working arrangements with the majority of staff moving to working from home</li></ul>
<b>31 March 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•First virtual Committee</li></ul>
<b>April 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•40 members of staff furloughed</li><li>•All Committees except Planning and P&amp;F stood down</li></ul>
<b>21 April 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•First Recovery Group meeting</li><li>•Testing for key workers opened up to Council staff</li></ul>
<b>28 April 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•NSDC in top 3% in for speed of business grant payments</li></ul>
<b>May 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The Council start to develop safe ways of working for entering properties/ interacting with customers</li></ul>
<b>1 June 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The public can exercise more than once a day</li><li>•The public can be outside with up to 5 others from different households still abiding by social distancing rules</li><li>•Open air markets and schools reopened with reduced capacity</li></ul>
<b>15 June 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Non-essential retail reopens</li></ul>
<b>4 July 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social distancing rules relaxed to a "one-metre plus" as pubs, cinemas and restaurants reopen</li></ul>
<b>13 July 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Nail bars, salons, tanning booths, spas, massage parlours, tattoo parlours and piercing services are allowed to re-open</li></ul>
<b>August 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Save the High Street Campaign is launched alongside the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme</li></ul>

### **3.0 Council Services**

This section provides an overview of the Council services that have continued since June 2020, including existing services which have adapted and new services now delivered in response to community needs from the pandemic.

#### **3.1 Housing**

The responsive repairs team are delivering emergency repairs within the 24-hour target and have worked through the backlog of 850 repairs. They are now returning to delivering day-to-day repairs. The layouts and ways of working at Gladstone House and Vale View have been adapted and a robust safe system of work is in place to ensure staff and residents are safe and protected. The next steps include safely reopening communal dining and extending the reopening of Truly Beauty (which reopened its doors to residents only on 14 July).

#### **3.2 Emergency Planning**

The Council continued to use official data and guidance to inform its actions<sup>1</sup> and many employees continue to work on pandemic related activities, from making buildings Covid-Secure to ensuring that the wider district is safe. The Council also continues to contribute to the 15+ groups that sit under the LRF on a strategic, tactical and operational level. The nature and frequency of these meetings is subject to constant change and review.

#### **3.3 Homelessness**

The Council responded to the governments 'Everyone In' directive by placing 9 people into temporary accommodation. There are still three people that need 'move on' accommodation and the Council's Housing, Health and Community Relations team are developing a plan for these individuals. The team have also provided support to individuals in temporary accommodation including information on testing, assistance to claim benefits, food parcels, support sessions and provided funding for deposits to secure 'move on' accommodation.

#### **3.4 Council Tax Support**

The UK government provided local authorities with funding to provide additional support to residents who qualify for Council Tax support. Council Tax reductions of £150 were applied for all households of working age already in receipt of Local Council Tax Support. Awards totalling £655,491 have been made so far out of a budget of £810,844. It is expected that the whole budget will have been awarded by the end of the financial year. A temporary hold on issuing reminders and other arrears recovery was in place until 30 June. Since 1 July, notices are being issued; however, flexible payment arrangements have been made with those council taxpayers that have asked for additional support.

#### **3.5 Recycling and Waste**

On 3 August 2020 a safe system of work was put into place allowing all vehicles to return to 3 members of staff in a cab. This was enabled by a number of safeguards including; routine temperature checks, face coverings worn in cabs and crews operating in working 'bubbles' to limit interactions. Currently all services are running with minimal disruption.

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<sup>1</sup> Data from Public Health England published at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) has provided information about testing, cases and mortality. The Council also monitors national COVID-19 [surveillance reports](#).

### 3.6 **Parks and Open Spaces**

Play areas and parks reopened from 6 July following the easing of restrictions nationally. Adaptations were put in place to ensure parks and open spaces could be used safely including signage to remind park users to socially distance. Since July football training has restarted in parks and the Football Authority risk assessments provided were reviewed by the Council before the activity resumed. Community Litter Picks and Friends Groups have also restarted in groups of six or less, in line with Council risk assessments.

### 3.7 **Car Parks**

Between 4 April and 30 June all car parks managed by the Council were free of charge to assist key workers and residents. This was extended to 31 August, with a reduced offer of 2 hours free parking at all Council car parks and free parking after 6pm to support the reopening of the economy. This will end on 20 September and car-parking charges will be resumed on 21 September.

### 3.8 **Committee Meetings**

Democratic Services colleagues have supported Members by providing one to one support with a dedicated officer assigned to individual Members. The democratic process has also been adapted with Committees and meetings hosted virtually and this work will continue to develop with a virtual Full Council in October. Since June the following activities have taken place:

- 4 Planning Committee Meetings
- 4 Licensing Hearings meetings
- 2 Policy and Finance Committee
- 3 Housing Advisory Group and servicing meetings
- 2 Chairs & Vice Chairs Meetings
- 2 Active4Today meetings
- 1 Councillors Commission
- 1 Shareholder Committee
- 1 Climate Change Group

### 3.9 **Planning Development**

Planning have continued to deliver their services processing applications and delivering services to their customers.

### 3.10 **Public Protection**

Public Protection have experienced a significant increase in complaints since 23 March many of which have been specifically related to Covid-19. Since the start of lockdown to 31 August these include:

- Noise complaints: as more people have been at home and outside due to the hot weather there has been a rise in neighbour complaints about noise disturbance. There have been 397 noise complaints received and investigated compared to 292 for the same period last year an increase of 107 cases (over 25% more).
- Smoke and Household Burning Complaints: there has been an increase in complaints about burning of material at domestic properties. The number of complaints received and investigated was 45 compared to 23 cases investigated for the same period last year. This is likely to have been cause by the temporary closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres and the suspension of the recycling collection.

- Anti-social Behaviour: the Council and police figures show that ASB has increased since the start of lockdown. The cases investigated by the Council have increased by 19 cases. However, the concern is not the number of cases, but the nature and complexity of the cases. There are many more cases involving school age children congregating in large groups. The police used Dispersal Orders in the Balderton area to resolve the issues being caused. The ASB included vandalism, harassment of the public and the fear caused by the congregating of large groups of people.
- Response to Covid-19 Complaints: a range of concerns were raised through the lockdown period. Initially these were concerns over social distancing at businesses that were able to operate through the lockdown; however as more premises reopened more concerns were raised. Concerns often regarded; queuing at premises, the wearing of PPE in hair salons and adherence to track and trace. To the end of August the Public Protection team received 270 Covid-19 specific complaints.

### 3.11 **Humanitarian Aid Response Team (HART)**

HART have continued to attend the LRF cells and sub groups, including contributing to the Incident Management Plan for the local outbreak and supporting Environmental Health and Public Health England on test and trace. HART has continued to support residents with parcels, medication pick-up and referrals, as well as other activities such as:

- Supporting private events to ensure Covid-19 compliant plans.
- Linking humanitarian support to local test and trace to ensure isolating individuals can access support and aid.
- Proactively supporting community and voluntary sector groups, such as village halls and community and voluntary sports clubs, to access Business Rate Relief support and Discretionary Grant support. This support has been critical to sustaining these groups and will hopefully reducing future financial struggles.
- Sanitisation support (the creation of a communal shower area) for family clusters on Park View.
- Assistance with exemption badges for vulnerable residents who cannot wear facemasks due to health conditions.
- Providing information on test and trace, in multiple languages, to residents.



### 3.12 **Welfare Checks**

The most significant piece of work HART has delivered since June was following up with vulnerable persons across the district. There are 3,865 Vulnerable People listed on the Nottinghamshire County Council's hub as living in Newark and Sherwood. Excluding those with dementia or aged 69 and under, 3,323 can be classified as vulnerable to Covid-19. The Council made telephone contact with all 3,323 vulnerable people. The Council made contact with 94% of people, and Nottinghamshire County Council the remaining 6%, to ensure they had support in place during the pandemic. Following these 'safe and well' checks 276 (8%) were referred to HART for further welfare checks or complex needs. HART have now been successful in gaining contact with 274 of these individuals and are working with them to get them the support they need.

### 3.13 Communications

The key message moving forward is vigilance. To ensure the public remain vigilant and continue to follow the advice. A video message from the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Lloyd, which combined this need to be vigilant with informing the public about Newark's removal from the National Watchlist had over a 1,000 views within the first day. The continued social media messaging has been redesigned to reflect the public's 'message fatigue'. It acknowledges that the message has not changed but that it remains important.



### 4.0 Business Support

This section outlines the support that has been provided to businesses in Newark and Sherwood from across the Council. This has been wide reaching and wrap around support including business grants, economic growth support, guidance from Environmental Health on national regulations and promotion and resources from communications on reopening high streets safely.

#### 4.1 Business Support

The Public Protection and Economic Growth teams worked, with communications colleagues, in partnership with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, The Nottinghamshire Business Growth Hub, Newark Business Club, Southwell Traders Group, local community groups and other partners such as Southwell Town Council, to deliver information, support and guidance on reopening. This included creating two newsletters, posters and leaflets.

Wide ranging support was provided to retail businesses reopening on 15 June. A range of interventions were implemented to provide support to the business and to give confidence to the public. These were:

- A retail advice pack was produced and distributed to over 200 businesses helping businesses understand the national guidelines and regulations.
- 25 ‘Ambassadors’ (who volunteered themselves from across the Council) were deployed over 5 days in the main commercial areas to give advice to business and the public and refer issues.
- A Covid-19 phone-in ‘ask the expert’ workshop was hosted for businesses.
- The Council supported the implementation of traffic regulation orders to allow social distancing in high streets.

Wide ranging support was also given to licenced premises which reopened on 4 July. This involved two distinct activities. During the day, Covid-19 Ambassadors were present on the main high streets across the district providing advice and guidance to the public and newly opened premises. This was followed in the evening with visits to licensed premises. The police worked with Environmental Health and Licensing staff to visit 15 licensed premises in Newark and 7 in other areas of the district to check the arrangements in place. Most premises had read and understood the guidance and this was reflected in the management of the premises.

This evening exercise was repeated on 8 August. In the daytime, visits were made to retail and non-licensed premises and in the evening, premises in the night-time economy were targeted. On this occasion the checks were extended to restaurants as well as pubs. In total 27 premises were inspected. It was noted that in some premises, the standards had been relaxed and action was taken to remedy this.

#### 4.2 Business Grants

Thousands of businesses have been awarded grant support through the national schemes (see table one) and this has been complimented by the Local Discretionary Grant scheme. This grant scheme, run by the Council, is aimed at small and micro businesses who were not eligible for the Small Business Grant or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant. This fund is now closed and £1,160,666.67 was awarded across 113 businesses.

<b>Table One: Grants Awarded in Newark and Sherwood</b>			
<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Grant Size</b>	<b>No of Awards</b>	<b>Total Given</b>
Discretionary grant	Up to £25k	113	£1,160,666
Business rate grant	£10-25k	2,270	£26,630,000
Small Business Grant	£10k	1,804	£18,040,000
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant	Up to £25k	468	£8,610,000

#### 5.0 The Local Outbreak

This section outlines the actions taken when Newark was an ‘Area of Concern’ due to a Local Outbreak and the actions taken to remove the area from the Government’s National Watchlist.

#### 5.1 The Situation

On 7 August a statement from Jonathan Gribbin, Director of Public Health at Nottinghamshire County Council, confirmed a number of cases at the Bakkavor factory in

Newark and emphasised the importance of following social distancing guidelines to all residents and businesses in the district. The national surveillance report of 14 August placed Newark and Sherwood on the Watchlist as an area of concern.

The threshold for national interest is at least 20 cases per 100,000 people. The following timeline summarises the Newark and Sherwood Local Outbreak;

<b>3 - 9 August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 26 cases per 100,000 population across Newark and Sherwood</li></ul>
<b>10 - 16 August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 32 cases per 100,000 population across Newark and Sherwood</li></ul>
<b>14 Aug</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newark designated an area of concern</li></ul>
<b>17 - 23 August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 24 cases per 100,000 across Newark and Sherwood</li></ul>
<b>4 September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newark removed from the Watch List</li></ul>

The centre of the outbreak was the factory run by Bakkavor with traced cases within the community, family and social networks between linked people and Bakkavor employees. There was not extensive spread in the community due to support of the Covid-19 guidelines.

## 5.2 **Actions Taken**

The actions taken by the Council to manage the outbreak were as follows:

### 5.2.1 **Track and Trace**

The national test, track and trace system is the first stage in identifying positive cases and ensuring that any contacts are followed up and advice on self-isolation provided. It became apparent during the local outbreak that there were some gaps in the national contact tracing that required local intervention. In instances where national contact could not be made, local contact was initiated using Environmental Health staff from within the Council. This allowed all positive local cases to be contacted and suitable advice provided.

As the outbreak developed, this system was further enhanced using daily positive case data provided by Bakkavor to immediately contact those testing positive and identify social, work or familial links. This work was a joint effort between County Public Health colleagues and the Council. When the Council communicated with positive or suspected cases the individual was requested to complete an online 'Investigation Survey' developed by the Council to gain an understanding of the spread and development of the outbreak. This survey was translated into 3 languages and translators also supported the investigation follow-ups to ensure a full picture of the outbreak was gathered. The survey also signposted to support that could be provided by HART for residents isolating.

The Bakkavor site was not the only place involved in the local outbreak. Staff from Public Protection followed up positive cases and their contacts from two other sites. The contact details of over 90 individuals were tabulated and assessed to ensure that any links



could be identified. The analysis of this contact tracing showed links between the Bakkavor and the two other sites, suggesting that the outbreaks were linked rather than separate entities.

The model developed for the Newark outbreak was so effective that it is now being developed as a model for track and trace across the County.

### 5.2.2 Communications #StopTheSpread

Ensuring that the identified key messages are broadcast during a local outbreak is crucial to stopping the spread of Covid-19. Public Health determined that transmission was mostly occurring through a social or community setting with households mixing and car sharing without following the guidelines.

To address this, the communications team developed a campaign which included these key messages covering a range of channels. Social media campaigns were developed using national assets, physical signage such as banners were used in key locations to ensure maximum impact. Alternative language material was developed and displayed and all the main supermarkets were visited and asked to display posters.



Utilising window space on Stodman Street



Banners at; Castle Gate, London Road crossroads, Beacon Hill road, Bowbridge Road, Lombard Street, Queens Road, Kings Road and Brunel Drive

During the outbreak there was also an increase in ‘fake news’ mostly on social media and the campaign adapted to address this as demonstrated in the social media post below.

## ! Beware of false information !



**Consider the source:**  
Where did you receive the information from?



**Cross check:**  
Are other reliable platforms sharing the same information?

### Follow accurate advice from accurate sources



[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



[www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/coronavirus)



[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)



There were weekly briefings with the media hosted by the County Council and multiple press enquiries which were actioned. Throughout this period, a high profile Towns Fund Campaign was ran by the communications team which saw 3 consecutive weeks as the lead article in the local press, high profile videos reaching across a wide range of organisations which form the Towns Fund Board.

#### 5.2.3 **Business Support**

In response to the increase in cases, a further day of activity was undertaken on Saturday 15 August. Support for this activity was provided from other authorities within Nottinghamshire who provided specialist staff to assist Environmental Health colleagues. Premises where people congregate were identified and visits were made to cafes, restaurants, coffee shops, and licensed premises. Over 80 premises were visited and reminded of the regulations.

#### 5.2.4 **Council Sites**

As a precaution during the local outbreak, visitors to council run care homes were restricted and the transitional arrangements for council offices were paused, with only essential staff attending council sites.

#### 5.2.5 **Emergency Plan Update Meetings**

Daily Emergency Plan Update Meetings were established in response to Newark being on the Government's National Watchlist as an Area of Concern. These meetings involved Council officers, Public Health, County Council colleagues and members of the Council's Senior Leadership Team. The group were primarily a decision making group ensuring effective management of the local outbreak. The meetings were held daily from 6 August to 4 September.

#### 5.3 **Response: National Taskforce**

In August group of three representatives from central government, together with Jonathan Gribbin, Director of Public Health for Nottinghamshire, visited Castle House. The purpose of the visit was to explore how the national Covid-19 policy and practice was applied to deal with a local outbreak, providing an opportunity to share good practice from elsewhere and to raise matters with central government that the Council felt needed to be improved. The Taskforce group were positive, as was the Director of Public Health, about the leading contribution of Newark and Sherwood District Council.

### 6.0 **Workforce Adaption**

This section of the report summarises how staff and members are adapting to work with Covid-19 safe systems of work and being supported to continue to deliver to residents

#### 6.1 **Gradual Return to Work**

The original lockdown measures were partially removed and from 1 August the Government's advice for England changed giving employers discretion to allow staff back to work. The decision was taken to bring staff back to work in a phased, sensible and safe way to assist with:

- The isolation and loneliness experienced by some colleagues,
- The loss of the sense of team/togetherness that comes from face to face contact,
- The loss of a sense of common purpose and organisational culture,
- The less than ideal home working arrangements that some staff are experiencing,

- And the loss of integration between services that often comes from informal ‘corridor’ conversations and the impact this can have on service co-ordination.

There are some working arrangements, introduced in response to Covid-19 that will remain, such as greater use of virtual meetings and increasingly flexible working patterns.

The phased return to staff to their usual place of work commenced on Monday 10 August 2020. This is a transitional phase so every day numbers were limited to ensure social distancing. This was controlled through a rota applied to the offices at Farrar Close, Brunel Drive and Castle House. As the offices are all different sizes and layouts it meant staff coming in once every 8 to 10 working days. Staff also have to adhere to the Temporary Ways of Working, a pack of guidance on the safe systems of work in place at the Council’s offices.

However, on 13 August, Newark and Sherwood were categorised as an Area of Concern. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, the transition arrangements were paused. Following the removal of Newark from the National Watchlist the plans were restarted with effect from 14 September 2020.

## 6.2 **Workplace Culture**

The workplace culture team was set up to provide a wrap-around package of support for all staff. They continue to provide this support to staff with a weekly wellbeing newsletter and other information. They have also taken specific actions to support staff with transition back into the office. This included creating two videos guiding staff through the safe systems of work and helping familiarise staff with the new office protocols before their first day back. Staff also have access to a bespoke reintegration back into work/life after lockdown pack and other mental health support resources.

## 6.3 **Member Survey**

A Member Survey was undertaken by democratic services to understand how Members have found continuing to serve their communities through the pandemic. Members here adapted by moving online for meetings and committees and this was particularly important for those shielding. However, the overwhelming response from Members was that the support from Council staff meant they could still effectively deliver in their community. The main message from Members was that Covid had enabled, in some cases, more engagement with local businesses, organisations and residents. Whilst the pandemic in general, and the many reactive community support groups, brought communities closer together; a legacy that the Council will look to build upon.

## 6.4 **New Ways of Working**

The Council will be reviewing itself as an organisation, looking to learn lessons from how services were delivered during Covid-19. This learning is still ongoing as we enter the transition arrangements with staff starting to return and with communities entering the recovery phase. The Council will be learning and gathering information and using this to look at ways of working in the future.

## 7.0 **Moving Forwards**

This section considers the future issues that are likely to impact the district moving into recovery and the future post-Covid.

### 7.1 **Looking Forward**

There were 93,300 furloughed in Nottinghamshire, of which 13,900 were in Newark and Sherwood. This equates to 11.4% of the population. Projected unemployment in Newark and Sherwood after furlough is expected to rise to 11.5% to 12% from the pre-Covid 4.5% (D2N2 Study). The Projection of Gross Value Added (GVA) change by the end of 2020 is expected to be minus 41% in Newark & Sherwood and minus 35% in the UK (D2N2 Study).

This is mirrored in the support residents require. There were 3,750 JSA Claimants in Newark and Sherwood in June 2020. This is a 155% increase on June 2019.

## 7.2 **Economic Recovery**

An Economic Impact and Recovery Strategy is in development and this will pull together multiple data sources to develop a picture of the issues facing Newark and Sherwood residents and businesses before outlining a strategy for economic recovery.

The Council will also undertake a number of promotional campaigns to support the safe reopening of high streets in each town, including messaging on safety, guidance on reopening and social distancing. The local outbreak that put the district on the Government's National Watchlist delayed the visitor 'staycation' campaign that was due to run in August and September. This campaign will now run in October and will focus on promoting the tourism destinations in Newark and Sherwood as safe places to visit for a 'change of scenery' with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and open spaces.

## 7.3 **Community Resilience**

HART was put in place at the onset of the pandemic to provide immediate and dedicated support to the community as a result of the impacts of Covid-19. However, it is recognised that HART has a continuing role to play in providing support to business, communities and identified vulnerable people and target groups. Therefore, HART will continue to deliver this community focused support. The principles for this are currently in development.

## 8.0 **Summary**

8.1 Colleagues have acted exceptionally to quickly set up support services for the district's most vulnerable residents, provide much needed financial relief to businesses and to develop and implement new ways of working in order to maintain the Council's unique and valuable "one team" ethos. Staff have embodied the Council's values tackling the local outbreak quickly and effectively.

## 9.0 **Proposals**

9.1 It is proposed that the content of this report, most notably the breadth of the response and work undertaken to remove Newark from the Government's National Watchlist, be considered as a context for future working.

## 9.0 **Equalities Implications**

9.1 The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 upon persons with protected characteristics in terms of age, ethnicity, occupation, and deprivation has regrettably been observed in the national statistics. Due consideration of these, and equalities implications, will be

necessary as the pandemic recovery continues to evolve. For each new activity referenced an equalities assessment was made and adaptations made as required.

## **10.0 Financial Implications (FIN20-21/9412)**

### **10.1 Revenue Current Year**

10.1.1 The Council has received £1,483,053 of funding from central government to-date to mitigate additional cost pressures as a result of COVID-19. This can be used across both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. Details of how this £1.483m is currently allocated can be found in Appendix B of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Projected Outturn Report to 31 March 2021 as at 31 July 2020 report elsewhere on this meeting's agenda.

10.1.2 The Council will also be able to claim partial compensation for lost sales, fees and charges income due to Government COVID-19 related interventions. Based on initial estimates, the council projects that this will be between £0.400m and £0.600m for 2020/21.

10.1.3 As at the end of July 2020, the Council is projecting a £1.174m shortfall on the General Fund in 2020/21 or between £0.574m and 0.774m if it includes initial estimates of compensation receivable for lost sales, fees and charges income.

### **10.2 Revenue Future Years**

10.2.1 As part of the 2021/22 budget-setting process, officers are working to understand the impacts that COVID-19 and other changes may have on expenditure and income in 2021/22 and future years.

## **11.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

11.1 The Council has a responsibility to plan and prepare for emergencies. This is a key responsibly and feeds into all objectives within the Community Plan. It is important to note that the Community Plan has been reviewed and reshaped in response to Covid-19 and is being brought before Members at this Committee for consideration.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the report be noted as a summary of the pandemic response and recovery activities since June and the context be considered for future working arrangements.**

### **Reason for Recommendation**

**To provide context for future working and decision making.**

### **Background Papers**

Nil.

For further information, please contact Sharon Watret on Ext.5717 and Ella Brady on Ext.5279

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## Appendix: Cases during the Newark and Sherwood Outbreak

### Daily Number of Cases in Newark and Sherwood

