

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Emergencies Board

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 15 May 2020	15:00	Skype meeting,

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Alistair Mackay: Councillor Iain Nicolson:
Councillor Marie McGurk (Convener): Councillor Michelle Campbell (Depute Convener):

Recording of meeting of Emergencies Board: 15 May 2020

<https://youtu.be/m4YZiGQvlcc>

Chair

In Attendance

Recording of Meeting

This meeting will be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on 07534 058160. To find the recording please follow the link which will be attached to this agenda once the meeting has concluded. Please note that only meetings of the Emergencies Board from 17 April 2020 onward have been recorded for broadcast.

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

Items of business

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Minute of Previous Meeting | 3 - 6 |
| | Minute of Meeting of Emergencies Board held on 7 May 2020 | |
| 2 | Update on Covid 19 | 7 - 26 |
| | Report by Chief Executive | |
| 3 | Financial Update | 27 - 46 |
| | Report by Director of Finance & Resources | |
| 4 | Items for Decision by the Board | |

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board may by resolution exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public are present, there could be disclosure to them of confidential information.

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| 5 | Confidential Updates |
| | Hear from the Chief Executive |

Minute of Meeting Emergencies Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 07 May 2020	15:00	Skype meeting,

Present

Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Alistair Mackay, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain Nicolson

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

S Black, Chief Executive; S Quinn, Director of Children's Services; M Crearie, Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services; G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Communications & Marketing, R Cooper, Economic Development Manager and P Fara, Web & Multi-media Editor (all Chief Executive's); J Trainer, Head of Childcare & Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer (Children's Services); O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (both Communities, Housing & Planning Services); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, P Murray, Head of ICT; L Neary, Head of Transformation, HR & OD, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager and D Low, Democratic Services Manager (all Finance & Resources); D Leese, Chief Officer and S Strachan, Acting Head of Health & Social Care (Paisley)(both Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); V Hollows, Chief Executive (Renfrewshire Leisure); A Murray (Police Scotland); M Hill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); and D Mair, Civil Contingencies Officer (Civil Contingencies Service).

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in item 2 on the agenda as she was an employee of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde but not in the Council's area and intimated that she would remain in the meeting during consideration of the item.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Board held on 1 May 2020.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Update on COVID 19

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Council's current arrangements and response to the ongoing international Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Executive invited M Hill, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and A Murray, Police Scotland, to provide an update on behalf on their respective services. They provided information on the impact on their services arising from COVID-19 as well as the activities being undertaken by their services to ensure that public safety was being maintained.

The report intimated that to reflect changes in the national situation, an update was provided on the numbers of cases and deaths at both Scottish and UK levels, which now included those deaths that occurred in care homes and the wider community as well as in hospitals. The recent publication of updated figures and analysis from the National Records of Scotland was also included. It was noted that at the date of this report there were 194,990 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in hospitals in the UK up from 165,221 reported on 1 May 2020. In Scotland there were now 12,709 confirmed hospital cases up from 11,353. Of these, 3,203 cases were within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board (GGCHB) area up from 2,759. In the GGCHB area there were 509 people in hospital as either confirmed or suspected cases, down from 548 of whom 30 were in intensive care, down from 43.

The report highlighted the support being provided for communities and provided information in relation to care homes and safeguarding and supporting vulnerable residents being looked after in their own homes. The report also included up-to-date figures on the numbers and types of support being provided to some of the most vulnerable residents in Renfrewshire, including arrangements being made locally to establish virtual neighbourhood hubs and volunteering.

The report provided an update on support to businesses and the distribution of business and self-employed grants.

A workforce planning update for the Council was also included in the report, together with an update on the current position in relation to availability of PPE and on employee testing procedures; and the current position in relation to the impact of shielding procedures and absence on the availability of employees and redeployments.

The report detailed the development of Contact Tracing, Test, Trace, Isolate and Support (TTIS) throughout Scotland. TTIS was seen as a critical tool for the UK and Scotland to minimise transmission of COVID-19, alongside other measures such as physical distancing and good hand hygiene.

The Board then heard from the Chief Executive in relation to the report generally; from the Acting Head of Health & Social Care (Paisley), Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership in relation to care home cases; from the Communities & Regulatory Manager in relation to contact tracing; from the Economic Development Manager in relation to the award of grants to support businesses impacted by COVID-19; from the Head of Communications & Marketing in relation to the cancellation of the events programme to the end of October 2020; from the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services in relation to financial support for landlords and tenants; from the Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (Chief Social Work Officer) on gender-based violence; and from the Director of Environment & Infrastructure in relation to funding available to promote the development of active transport infrastructure.

DECIDED:

(a) That the current national and local situation with regards to COVID-19 and the impact on communities, businesses and the Council and its partners be noted; and

(b) That the response measures being put in place by the Council and partners as set out in this report be noted.

3 Education Placing Requests- Procedure During the Covid-19 Emergency

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to changes to the legislation dealing with placing requests for schools during the COVID-19 emergency to enable more flexibility in the way Councils were able to deal with the requests and any appeals that may be made where requests had been refused.

The report set out the statutory basis of the education placing request appeals process, detailed the existing process and timetable used to deal with placing request appeals by local authorities and advised that the Scottish Government had recognised that this process was not possible in the current circumstances. The Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (the 2020 Regulations) allowed hearings to be held remotely in whole or in part by video link, telephone or other means of instantaneous multi-party communication. It was intended that the appeal hearings would be carried out by skype or other similar system that would allow appellants to make their case to the panel. The 2020 Regulations also provided further flexibility in terms of the timetable for dealing with placing requests: the Council now had 28 days to acknowledge receipt of an appeal rather than 5 working days; the period of notice to be given by the Council about the date of the hearing had been changed from 14 days to as soon as reasonably practicable; and appeal hearings, which previously had to take place within 28 days had now to be held as soon as reasonably practicable but within 3 months from the date the appeal was received.

DECIDED:

(a) That the changes made to the timetable and procedure for dealing with Education

Placing Requests by the 2020 Regulations, which came into force on 23 April 2020, be noted;

(b) That the procedure for dealing with Education Placing Requests and appeals during 2020 be noted;

(c) That it be agreed that the Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel be convened for the purposes of determining appeals during 2020 on dates to be set by the Convener in consultation with the Head of Corporate Governance; and

(d) That it be agreed that the Head of Corporate Governance make provision for appeals to be considered by the Placing Requests and Exclusions Appeals Panel to be dealt with remotely as outlined in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Board resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the press and public were present, there could be disclosure to them of confidential information.

4 Confidential Updates

The Chief Executive advised that there was no confidential update.

DECIDED: That the position be noted.



To: Emergencies Board

On: 15 May 2020

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Update on COVID-19

1. Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the Council's current arrangements and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information is provided on the national position including the numbers of cases and deaths at both Scottish and UK levels. The recent publication of updated figures and analysis from the National Records of Scotland is included and shows that the rate of increase in deaths from COVID-19 is beginning to slow. A summary is also provided of policy and guidance updates that have been released over the past week.

 - 1.2 Section 4 highlights the support being provided for communities and provides information in relation to Care Homes and safeguarding and supporting vulnerable residents being looked after in their own homes. This section also includes up to date figures on the numbers and types of support being provided to some of the most vulnerable residents in Renfrewshire.

 - 1.3 Section 5 provides an update on the support being provided to Council Housing Tenants and an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the work of the service.

 - 1.4 Section 6 provides a workforce planning update for the Council. It includes an update on the current position in relation to availability of PPE; and on employee testing procedures; the current position in relation to the impact of absence on the availability of employees; and redeployments.

 - 1.5 Section 7 provides an operational update from Finance and Resources seeking approval for the previously scheduled Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (JNC) to be arranged and held remotely on 2 June 2020; and information on work undertaken to support businesses to comply with the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.
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2. Recommendations

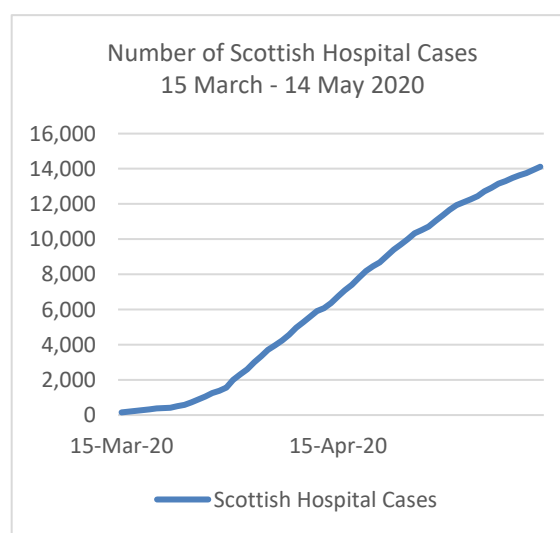
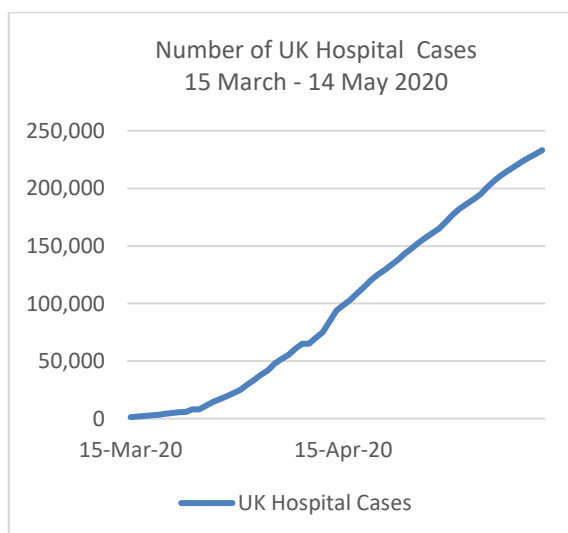
2.1 It is recommended that the Emergencies Board:

- (a) Note the current national and local situation with regards to COVID-19 and the impact on communities, businesses and the Council and its partners
- (b) Note the response measures being put in place by the Council and partners as set out in this report
- (c) Agree that a remotely held meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (JNC) be arranged to be held on 2 June 2020

3. National Situation

Numbers of Cases

- 3.1 Currently there are 233,151 confirmed cases of COVID – 19 in hospitals in the UK up from 194,990 reported on 7 May 2020. In Scotland there are now 14,117 confirmed hospital cases (up from 12,709). Of these, 3,628 cases are within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area (up from 3,203). In GGCHB area there were 473 people in hospital (down from 509) (26 in intensive care – down from 30) as either confirmed or suspected cases.
- 3.2 The following graphs illustrate the significant increase in cases since 15 March 2020:

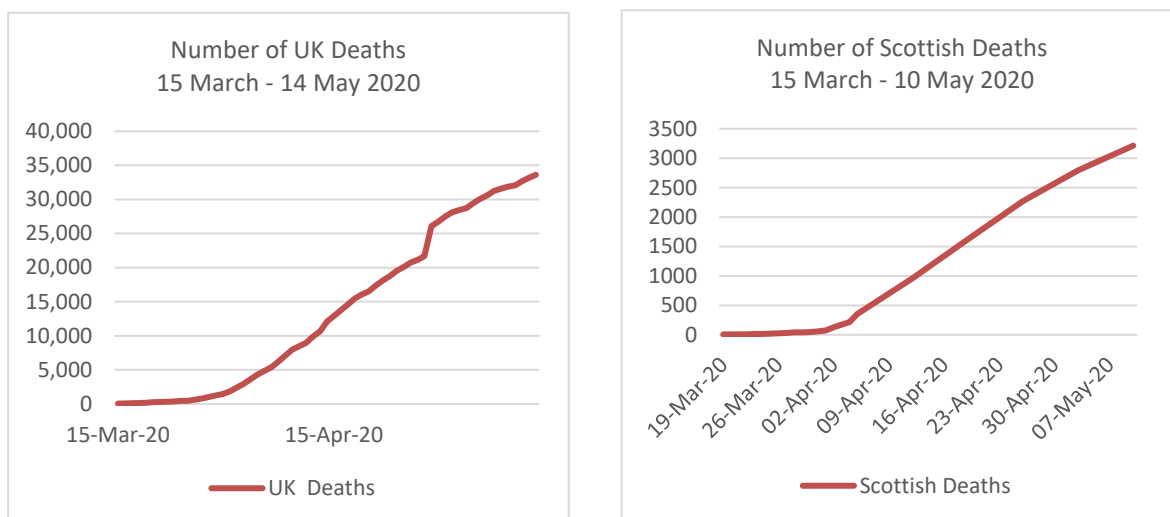


Numbers of Deaths

- 3.3 At a UK level, reports are indicating that there have now been 33,614 deaths across the UK (up from the 29,427 deaths reported on 7 May 2020). The UK has now had more deaths than any other country except for the United States where over 85,000 deaths have been recorded (258 per million population). However a

more accurate comparison is to consider the number of deaths in relation to population size and on this measure (when removing countries with very small populations) the UK currently ranks 4th with 495 deaths per million population, behind Belgium (768 deaths per million population), Spain (584 deaths per million population) and Italy (514 deaths per million population).

- 3.4 The National Records of Scotland has now published its 6th weekly report which indicates the numbers of deaths registered in Scotland that note COVID-19 as a factor in the death. As at 10 May 2020, there have been a total of 3,213 deaths registered in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate – up from 2,795 deaths registered up to 3 May 2020.
- 3.5 The graphs below demonstrate the change in reporting and show the increase in the overall number of deaths recorded in terms of UK deaths on 28 April 2020 and in the case of Scottish deaths on 5 April 2020. (Prior to these dates the figures recorded in each graph reflect the hospital only deaths reported):



- 3.6 The National Records of Scotland analysis also provides an additional level of detail on the outbreak so far in Scotland, including some positive indicators of progress in responding to the outbreak:
- Of the total number of deaths registered in the week from 4 to 10 May 2020, there were 415 where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, a decrease of 110 from the previous week. This is the second weekly reduction since the first COVID-19 death was registered in March.
 - The proportion of all deaths involving COVID-19 has also decreased for the second week in a row:
 - 36% of all deaths in week to 26 April 2020
 - 31% of all deaths in week to 3 May 2020
 - 29% of all deaths in week to 10 May 2020
 - Up to last week, the proportion of all COVID-19 deaths which took place in care homes had risen each week and represented 59% of all COVID-19 deaths in the week to 3 May 2020. This dropped back slightly in the week to 10 May 2020 to represent 57% of all COVID-19 deaths.

- The number of deaths in care homes also reduced for the second week in a row – down to 238, 76 fewer than the previous week.
- When looking at all deaths with COVID-19 registered to date:
 - 45% relate to deaths in care homes
 - 48% were in hospitals
 - 7% of deaths were at home or non-institutional settings
 - 76% were people aged 75 or over
 - 91% of those dying with COVID-19 during April had at least one underlying pre-existing health condition
 - The death rate of people with COVID -19 is 2.3 times higher in the 20% most deprived SIMD areas compared to the 20% least deprived SIMD areas.

3.7 The National Records of Scotland information also provides the ability to understand the position and changing impact of the outbreak in Renfrewshire in more detail:

- In Renfrewshire, the number of COVID-19 related deaths recorded in the week from 4 to 10 May 2020 dropped sharply - to 11, down from 33 the previous week.
- COVID-19 related deaths represented 21% of all deaths recorded in Renfrewshire in the week from 4 – 10 May 2020, down from 44% the previous week.
- The overall weekly number of deaths recorded in Renfrewshire continues to fall in relation to recent weeks but still remains above the normal average for this period in the year.
- The COVID -19 related death rate for all of Scotland is currently 5.1 per 10,000 population.
- The death rate in Renfrewshire has risen slightly during the past week to 8.9 per 10,000 population (from 8.3 the previous week). This means Renfrewshire currently has the fourth highest death rate in Scotland and has dropped back from third place last week. Inverclyde remains the area in Scotland with highest COVID-19 related death rate. (Figure 2: Appendix 1)
- The proportion of deaths that have occurred in care homes in Renfrewshire rose slightly to 49%, up from 48% the previous week and remains slightly above the national average of 45%. (Figures 1 and 3: Appendix 1)
- There appears to be no clear link between overall death rates and the percentage of deaths in care homes. (Figures 2 and 3: Appendix 1)

3.8 At both a Scottish and UK Government level, the policy context in relation to the response to COVID-19, continues to develop at a rapid pace. Changes to existing policy, the introduction of new processes and announcements on future developments, are all being closely monitored. While fuller information is provided elsewhere in the report on key policy updates and their impact in Renfrewshire - since the last Emergencies Board meeting on 7 May 2020, the following policy changes have been announced:

- In Scotland, the advice on how often people can exercise outdoors changed with effect from 11 May 2020 and residents are now able to go outside to

exercise more than once a day. This change was agreed in line with the process set out in the Scottish Government's Framework for Decision Making and followed a review of scientific advice. Guidance makes clear that exercise should continue to be undertaken close to home and be undertaken alone, or with members of a single household

- Earlier this week, the UK Government published its COVID-19 Recovery strategy, with some lockdown measures being eased in England from this week, and with a broad timetable set out for others to be stepped down over coming weeks and months. Specific guidance has been published for businesses in England who are able to consider whether they can open with appropriate protection and physical distancing arrangements in place from 13 May 2020.
- On 12 May 2020 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the UK Government would extend the furlough scheme until the end of October 2020. Furloughed workers will continue to receive 80% of their current salary, up to £2,500 per month up to end of July 2020 with additional flexibility being considered that would be built into the scheme from August to support employees back to work and to share the costs of the scheme with businesses.
- A second Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill is currently being progressed through the Scottish Parliament which sets out further measures to support Scotland's response to the coronavirus outbreak. Key elements of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill include a proposed additional £19.2 million investment in Carer's Allowance Supplement, the introduction of "notice to leave periods" for students in purpose-built student accommodation and halls of residence, and additional protections for those facing bankruptcy.
- The Scottish Government has announced that a new national digital wellbeing hub will enable staff, carers, volunteers and their families to access relevant support when they need it. The site provides a range of self-care and wellbeing resources designed to aid resilience as the whole workforce responds to the impact of coronavirus. The hub is the first of its kind in the UK and its content has been created by trauma and other specialists in Scotland. Specifically tailored to support the challenges being faced by everyone in health and social care, the hub will provide advice on self-care and personal resilience to help users to recognise their own 'warning signs'. Comprehensive information about services and resources available at both national and local level within NHS Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) and local authorities will be available.

3.9 Scottish Government Funding announcements:

- An initial £50 million in part payment towards Health and Social Care mobilisation plans, of which Renfrewshire will receive £1.667 million has been confirmed. Health and Social Care Partnerships across Scotland have all put in place mobilisation plans, approved by the Scottish Government, to ensure the health and social care system is as well placed as possible to address the COVID-19 pandemic. As outlined previously to the Board, the Scottish Government have indicated in principle agreement to meet the identified additional costs. For Renfrewshire the estimated additional costs for the period through to the end of June is estimated at circa £12.8 million and therefore this funding distribution represent only a

very initial tranche of expected funding to be received from the Government. Work remains ongoing between HSCP's and Scottish Government to update and refine cost estimates as actual costs are beginning to feed through in relation to the initial early weeks of the pandemic response.

- A new £5 million programme will offer an internet connection; training and support; and a laptop or tablet to vulnerable people who are not already online during the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Eligible digitally excluded people will be identified by local authorities and third sector organisations and offered a device with a mobile internet data package, which will be delivered to their homes. It is understood that this funding is not coming directly to local authorities in terms of the first tranche of the Connecting Scotland programme. The Council will be asked to support a national programme whereby 9,000 devices will be allocated to those most digitally excluded within our communities. The programme will be coordinated nationally by SCVO. A 'digital champion' will provide phone and online support for an initial six-month period – after which the project will be evaluated to assess the support needed longer term. Training and support for digital champions is being coordinated by SCVO and will be delivered through local authorities and third sector bodies.
- Properties occupied by charities can now apply for the £10,000 Small Business Grant Scheme to help with pressures caused by the pandemic. The Small Business Grant Scheme is administered by local authorities. Organisations can apply for the scheme through their local Council.
- £10m funding has been allocated through the Supporting Communities Fund to around 250 community organisations, that will act as 'anchors', bringing together charities, volunteers, social enterprises and the public sector to co-ordinate the local response and channel support where it is needed. This includes making hot meals, organising grocery and prescription deliveries and providing wellbeing support. In Renfrewshire, over £330,000 funding has been allocated to Bridgwater Housing Association, Linstone Housing Association, Linwood Community Development Trust and New Tannahill Centre.

3.10 Guidance Updates:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying at home and away from others (physical distancing) – guidance has been updated to reflect the change in advice to allow people to exercise more than once a day. All sport and leisure facilities remain closed in Scotland under the guidance. Associated guidance documents were also updated to reflect this change:
 - National guidance on domestic abuse
 - Guidance on the use of face coverings
- Scottish Government guidance in relation to testing in care homes has been withdrawn and is currently under review and awaiting re publication. The previous guidance required all residents being readmitted to care homes from hospital to have two negative COVID-19 test results before the readmission is made.

4. Support for Communities

Care Homes

- 4.1 Renfrewshire has a mixture of residential care homes and extra care housing directly operated by the Health and Social Care Partnership; nursing homes and a smaller group of residential care homes operated by the independent sector.
- 4.2 At the time of writing there is one resident with COVID-19 related symptoms in the 3 HSCP operated care homes and 4 extra care units. However, testing of residents and staff in one of the three care homes is now being carried out as a preventative measure following a positive test on a resident currently in hospital.
- 4.3 As in previous reports to the Board the data available is based on self-reporting by all 22 care homes and discussions with the Care Inspectorate, which are held weekly. Sadly, 103 people have now been reported by care homes as dying with COVID-19 since 18 March 2020. A smaller group of 6 care homes are now reporting residents with symptoms of COVID-19, or have confirmed cases. However, the number of residents now reported as symptomatic or confirmed has risen to 45 in part because the wider use of testing is now identifying people affected at an earlier stage. This information continues to be subject to frequent change.
- 4.4 At the time of writing (14 May) one resident in an HSCP-operated care home has died, with the death certificate noting the secondary cause of death as suspected to be COVID-19 related. One resident from the same care home is currently in hospital and tested positive for COVID-19 in hospital. Testing of all residents and staff in this care home is being undertaken. There are no reported residents with COVID-19 related symptoms in the two other HSCP-operated care homes or four extra care units.
- 4.5 The extension of testing for all care home residents and staff has continued to roll out, with full testing of all residents and staff where someone is showing as symptomatic. There is no longer a need to wait for a positive result before triggering a request for full testing. Testing has also been carried out on care homes where there was a new infection in the 14 days prior to the commencement of enhanced testing on 1 May 2020. Testing of all staff and residents is now planned across 12 care homes, including the one HSCP operated care home. Testing is currently underway in 8 of these homes, with all testing across the 12 scheduled to be concluded by 21 May 2020. This is providing a fuller understanding of the level of infection present in the homes where the testing has been carried out. Testing will then move to any homes with new outbreaks and to sample testing of homes with no reported COVID-19 related issues.
- 4.6 One local care home has experienced a significant number of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. Additional support has been given to this care home including input from the clinical lead for palliative care, senior nurse manager for the enhanced care home liaison service, and palliative care nurse who have all visited and provided care to residents. An additional Staff Nurse has also been provided by the HSCP to the care home to supplement their staffing levels and the HSCP will continue to work closely with the care home, Public Health and the

Care Inspectorate to ensure that all appropriate care and support is provided to the residents.

- 4.7 The HSCP and partners are working together to continue to offer a range of enhanced support and assurance to care homes to assist them in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and to provide the best levels of care to all residents. This work has been previously reported in detail and includes daily contact with all care homes to ensure that they have full PPE supplies in place and to seek information on any COVID-19 related issues affecting residents. Ongoing professional advice and support is also being provided with a particular focus on the care homes who have the greatest level of need. This includes support led by the Medical Director and involving pharmacy, enhanced nursing teams, and the hospices [to support palliative care] to offer additional tailored medical and practical support to each home.

Care at Home Services

- 4.8 At present, Renfrewshire HSCP is supporting approximately 1,600 service users through its internal and external Care at Home services. There are a small but growing number of these people, living within their own homes with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- 4.9 Appropriate PPE is worn by staff when supporting service users in their homes, with all appropriate precautions being taken to maintain safe and effective care delivery. Access to testing is available for eligible people and staff who are symptomatic or have household members who are symptomatic.
- 4.10 At the time of writing, sadly 14 Care at Home service users have died, with the deaths reported as being related to COVID-19. In addition, 6 service users have been confirmed as having COVID-19 and another 7 are currently being reported as having COVID-19 like symptoms. As is the case with care homes, this information is subject to frequent change and the expanded testing programme will provide a fuller understanding of the impact of COVID-19 in this vulnerable community.
- 4.11 Staff across care home and care at home services are working in challenging circumstances and their welfare is a priority. Access is provided to mental health and wellbeing services across Renfrewshire and online. Staff hubs have also been put in place to allow care at home staff appropriate places to take rest periods whilst being able to access snacks and drinks when working within a community setting. This provision will be enhanced by the national wellbeing hub established and launched this week.
- 4.12 On 14 May 2020 a special meeting of the Community Protection Chief Officers (the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council, the Board Nurse Director, GGCHB and the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland) was held, with a focus specifically on assessing the current position and support being provided to Care Homes and Care at Home services across Renfrewshire.

Shielded and Vulnerable Residents

- 4.13 To date the local helpline has received 4,801 calls in relation to shielding enquires and the following support has been provided:

	Total	Previous	Change since last week
Total number of individuals on shielding list in Renfrewshire	5,921	5,643	278
Total number of individuals on shielding list contacted	5,294	4,677	617
Number of individuals requiring food delivery only	1,583	1,453	130
Number of individuals requiring pharmacy delivery only	127	112	15
Number of individuals requiring food and pharmacy	127	127	0
Number of individuals requiring other services	15	13	2
Number of individuals in need of no services	4,701	4,089	612

- 4.14 Group 2 vulnerable residents have also made 734 calls through the national helpline, with the current level of support provided through the Local Assistance Team to vulnerable people in this category, outlined in the table below:

	Group 1 Shielded	Group 2 Helpline	Other Vulnerable Groups	National Brakes Deliveries (Group 1 only)	Total Supported
Food	520	1103	770	1190	Food – 3,583
Medicine	254	409			Medicine – 663
Other	15	147			Other – 162

- 4.15 The initial focus of work has been to ensure that support is provided on an emergency basis to those most vulnerable, with a strong focus on those that needed support to access medicine or food safely and urgently.
- 4.16 The initial crisis response phase of assistance is now more or less complete. The Local Assistance Team have made contact with the majority of people on the local shielding list – around 90% and in the past week only a further 278 names were added to the list of people being asked to shield. Where contact has not been made directly by the team it is being checked through the HSCP with GP's.
- 4.17 As the Council moves forward with establishing virtual neighbourhood hubs and wider community support, it is well placed to work with local people and in partnership with other organisations to identify longer term options for support. This will include support to access advice and welfare services, to access food at a local level, to offer activity that supports wellbeing and a sense of connection, or to support people to access food independently through some of the new service offerings being developed by supermarkets.
- 4.18 As the response moves on from crisis response, the focus in the Local Assistance Team has also begun to move on, to providing welfare calls to current service recipients to determine the best packages of support that will meet their longer term needs most effectively. This work will seek to ensure vulnerable residents and shielded residents are provided with the assistance they require to live as

independently as possible in coming weeks and months. Over the past week these calls have resulted in confirmation that a significant number of the Group 1 Shielded residents are now being provided reliably with the national support and priority supermarket slots to which they are entitled and no longer require the crisis support that the Council has provided them with up to now. This is a very positive step forward. Other residents have specific needs which mean that some level of ongoing Council support is still required and will continue to be provided. In coming weeks welfare calls will continue to be undertaken - speaking to all residents that are currently being supported and working with them to ensure that they can access the full range of assistance available to them.

Neighbourhood hubs and Volunteering

- 4.19 All 7 virtual neighbourhood hubs are now operational. Hub Coordinators are getting in touch with people to understand their needs and then working flexibly to support people and develop the Hubs offer. Currently referrals are being passed to the hubs from the Local Assistance Team and this will increase as the welfare calls are undertaken with Group 2 vulnerable residents and plans for expanding referral routes are being developed.
- 4.20 Working in partnership with Renfrewshire Leisure, Hubs are set to offer Libraries Direct, a service that uses the skills of librarians to offer a mini library and toy lending service, befriending calls and also digital support.
- 4.21 Volunteers have now received comprehensive inductions and are supporting the Hubs both on and off site. 58 volunteers have registered to volunteer for Neighbourhood hubs, 30 people have attended initial inductions and 27 people reported to the on-site hub inductions. This process is being supported by Engage Renfrewshire. Hub Co-ordinators are also building on relationships with the network of voluntary and community organisations in the area to identify opportunities to connect and widen the offer being made to local communities.

5. Support for Housing Tenants

- 5.1 Most Housing Services have been delivered remotely since lockdown measures were introduced at the end of March. While the local housing offices and homeless services offices have been closed to visiting members of the public, staff have quickly and positively adapted to working remotely to continue to deliver essential services to tenants and other services users. Staff who have been making essential visits to tenants, high rise blocks, temporary accommodation and sheltered housing complexes have all been provided with guidance and PPE as required.
- 5.2 Information on changes to service delivery arrangements was publicised on the Council's website and a booklet was posted to all Council tenants in the middle of April. The information provided to tenants included contact details for a range of services which are available to provide support and assistance.

Tenancy change, allocations and homelessness

- 5.3 Advice and assistance is being provided by telephone on a 24/7 basis to people who become homeless or are at risk of homelessness and temporary accommodation continues to be made available to people who need this.

- 5.4 Following a small initial increase in the numbers of homeless applications in March (81 applications), the numbers have stabilised over recent weeks, with 55 applications during April. All 55 people were offered, and provided with, temporary accommodation. At the end of April, there were 216 households in temporary accommodation, which is a slight increase from earlier in the year. While most of the temporary accommodation provided to date has been self-contained furnished flats, it has been necessary to make some use of B&B accommodation.
- 5.5 Where this has been the case, arrangements are in place to minimise the length of time in B&B accommodation and to provide cooking facilities (microwave ovens) during these periods. Efforts are continuing to be made by Homeless Services staff to increase the supply of furnished flats
- 5.6 Tenancy turnover has remained low, with people tending to stay where they are, and delay planned moves. Only 33 dwellings became vacant in April, compared with 109 in March and 103 in February.
- 5.7 Routine lettings have been suspended, but it is possible to rehouse applicants with critical housing need (eg people being discharged from hospital) if wraparound services can be arranged to allow the safe movement of people and to facilitate safe living arrangements (such as adaptations, essential furniture and fittings, utility connections, homecare services).
- 5.8 In line with Scottish Government guidance on allocations for the housing sector published at the end of April, work is underway to plan for some homeless people currently staying in temporary accommodation to move on to settled tenancies where it is safe to do so. Initially the number of moves will be small, but it is expected that the number of people able to move into settled accommodation will increase over the next few months.
- 5.9 Plans are in place to offer temporary accommodation to prisoners from Renfrewshire who may be homeless when released from prison as part of the Scottish Government's scheme for the early release of short-term prisoners under special measures in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Homeless Services are working closely with Criminal Justice service and other services to ensure a coordinated response.

Supporting Tenants

- 5.10 Housing Support Officers are maintaining contact by telephone and email, as well as home visits where it is safe to do so, with tenants and other service users who receive housing support services, and are continuing to make referrals to other specialist services where people are particularly vulnerable and in need of additional assistance.
- 5.11 Neighbourhood housing staff have been available to assist tenants with core services by telephone (for example, advice on rent payment and benefits, addressing anti-social behaviour, housing options advice etc.). The normal processes for dealing with rent arrears have been suspended, and officers are proactively contacting tenants where there have been missed rent payments or changes to rent payment patterns to offer advice on accessing benefits and other support services as appropriate. Housing Options advice is still being provided

remotely and new housing applications are being registered, but numbers are well below normal monthly activity.

- 5.12 Rental income is slightly lower than at this point last year and there has been an increase in the rate of rent arrears. (The provisional gross rent arrears figure for April was 6.2%, which is an increase from 5.7% in March, but this figure is subject to further adjustment once all managed Universal Credit payments are received by the Council for April). It is expected that it may take some months before the full effect is evident, with the information currently available showing that the majority of rent arrears cases are among tenants of working age and there is a significant increase in the number of Universal Credit claims.
- 5.13 The arrears position will continue to be closely monitored, with staff providing support and advice and directing tenants to alternative sources of specialist advice and financial support as appropriate.
- 5.14 Tenants aged over 70 years old have been contacted by Housing Officers by telephone to check on their wellbeing, offer advice and assistance and make referrals to other services as appropriate.

Sheltered Housing

- 5.15 For Council tenants living in the ten sheltered housing complexes, staff have been working throughout, with daily wellbeing calls being made remotely by staff, and a physical check still being carried out each day at all sheltered housing complexes (testing fire alarms, ensuring that fire doors are closed and the 24/7 community alarm responder and warden call systems are functioning etc). Assistance is being provided with purchasing and dropping off food and essential supplies where sheltered housing tenants have no family support available to help with this, as well as a range of online activities, and a befriending service for those feeling lonely and isolated. Staff involved in providing this support have been following all guidance on physical distancing and have been provided with appropriate PPE.
- 5.16 Liaison arrangements are in place with the HSCP to ensure that information relating to Council and housing association sheltered housing complexes is shared as appropriate to help plan services within local communities and these arrangements are being extended to other types of housing for older people (Council grouped amenity housing and retirement housing managed by housing associations).

Management of High-Rise Blocks

- 5.17 The concierge and caretaking service have continued to operate throughout, and all 14 high rise blocks have daily fire safety checks carried out. Wellbeing calls with appropriate physical distancing and PPE, are also being made to tenants in the amenity flats at Glencairn Court by concierge staff.

Housing Repairs, Improvement Work and Newbuild

- 5.18 In order to avoid non-essential visits to tenants' homes, routine and non-emergency repairs have been suspended. Only emergency repairs and gas servicing works are being undertaken in tenanted properties. Tenants are being contacted ahead of planned visits to make sure that it is safe for tradesmen to attend, with alternative arrangements being made where necessary.

- 5.19 The statutory gas servicing process has continued as normal throughout the lockdown period with tenants contacted 8 weeks in advance of their service date to arrange their appointment and to date, the vast majority of services have been carried out within the required 12-month timescale. However, there have been a number of tenants not wanting to give access to allow their service to be carried out for a range of reasons including illness, self-isolation, shielding or other vulnerabilities. To date, this has resulted in approximately 25% of gas services due during the lockdown period to date not being carried out by the due date. Records are kept of all cases where it has not been possible to carry out the service within the required timeframe and officers are contacting tenants and trying to re-arrange appointments where possible so that this can be done as soon after the due date as possible. However, it is likely that in some cases, services will be postponed for an extended period of time, for example in the case of shielding residents who have indicated they do not want officers visiting their home for the period of shielding.
- 5.20 Some essential void repair works continued in the early stages of the lockdown to ensure a supply of properties were available for emergency rehousing and temporary accommodation for homeless people. However, most of this work has been suspended over recent weeks (due to the nature of work required and the lack of availability of specialist contractors) but work is now underway to recommence essential works where possible, as contractors remobilise with new ways of working to meet the requirements of the current restrictions.
- 5.21 Construction activity on planned capital improvement programmes has also been suspended by contractors in line with Government restrictions. Where work had already started on site, any work necessary to make sure that properties were left in a safe and secure condition was carried out and regular site inspections are being undertaken to ensure they remain safe. Construction activity has also been suspended at the Council's two newbuild sites (Bishopton and Johnstone Castle) and where move-in dates have had to be postponed, prospective tenants are being kept informed about the position.

6. Support for Employees

Sourcing and Stocks of PPE

- 6.1 There are sufficient supplies for the next 7 days to support the current service profile in the HSCP and other frontline services.
- 6.2 All guidance continues to stress that physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene, are the most important and effective measures to adopt to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Staff Testing

- 6.3 Testing arrangements have become an important element of maintaining resilience across the workforce supporting key workers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or live with people who are, to get tested early. If the early testing proves negative, this facilitates an earlier return to work for the employee than would be experienced under existing self-isolation arrangements without testing. This in turn supports services to maintain higher levels of available staff resource to continue to meet the significant demand for services.
- 6.4 As previously reported, NHSGGC has already established its own system of testing which as at 8 May 2020 has facilitated 81 HSCP staff to be tested, with 31 testing positive for COVID-19. Of the 51 staff who did not test positive, this process has allowed 38 to return to work and 13 have moved to general absence.
- 6.5 At present, there are a total of 104 HSCP staff unavailable to work due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, family contact or actual symptoms. This is a decrease in these figures over the last week.
- 6.6 On 1 May 2020 the First Minister announced that access to testing was being further expanded to include a broader range of workers and circumstances and this includes:
- People who are not keyworkers but have to leave their house for work
 - People with COVID-19 symptoms who are over the age of 65 and their households
 - Where there is a confirmed COVID case in a care home, subject to consent, all residents and staff, whether or not they have symptoms can be tested
 - Surveillance sample testing of residents and staff who are not symptomatic for care homes where there are no confirmed COVID cases
 - Urgent testing should be carried out for care homes with an outbreak (and any linked homes as part of a group or chain where staff are moving between homes)
- 6.7 Further to the expansion of the testing arrangements outlined to the Board in the previous report, services across the Council are being supported by HR&OD to refer eligible employees and their households for testing. Given the timing of the new and expanded testing criteria, there has been a gradual increase in the number of employees referred for testing. The established testing tracking process in place will ensure quick and efficient referrals moving forward.
- 6.8 Staff from all services who meet the testing criteria are being encouraged to contact their manager or HR services (including through established weekend

cover arrangements) as soon as they believe either they or someone within their household is displaying symptoms - to allow the testing referral to be undertaken urgently.

- 6.9 To date, 36 non-healthcare Council employees have been tested for COVID-19. 8 employees have tested positive, 16 employees have tested negative, 11 employees are awaiting results and 1 test returned as inconclusive. Of the 25 employees who have received test results, 15 have returned to work and 10 are currently recorded as sickness absence.

Staffing Update

- 6.10 Amongst Renfrewshire Council employees there are currently 436 employees self-isolating either because they have symptoms; or because they have other people in their household experiencing symptoms; or because they are following government and health guidance. (This is a decrease from 580 reported on 7 May 2020). Of the 436, 171 are currently working from home. The decrease in cases is due to on-going work between HR&OD and Service Managers facilitating a return to work from self-isolation. Whilst the majority of employees returned to work after the appropriate self-isolating period, a small number of employees have moved to the “at risk” category as detailed in paragraph 6.12 below.

- 6.11 The 436 are split across Services as follows:

Service	Number of employees
Chief Executive Services	4
Children’s Services	200
Communities, Housing and Planning	31
Environment and Infrastructure	112
Finance and Resources	51
Health and Social Care Partnership	38
Council Total	436

- 6.12 The number of employees in the at-risk category and unable to perform frontline duties is 1,105, up from the figure of 1,085 reported on 7 May 2020. Of these 463 are currently working from home. Where employees are not able to carry out their normal duties from home, options for redeployment on a home working basis are being actively considered and put in place.

- 6.13 Currently around 1,000 employees have been redeployed within their services to focus on the delivery of priority services for the community. Corporate, cross service redeployment requests continue to be received and employees are being matched into roles within 24 – 48 hours. So far, 111 employees have been redeployed into priority front line roles:

- 51 Drivers supporting food and pharmacy deliveries as well as social distancing arrangements within waste collection.
- 20 Call handlers supporting responses to shielded and other vulnerable citizens
- 40 Coordinators, team leads and managers supporting the local response hubs

- 6.14 The Health and Wellbeing of employees is a key priority for the Council and more so during this period of lockdown when so many are working in unfamiliar roles. With more employees working from home, delivering essential services and adjusting to life following the current government guidelines, it is important that they have access to the right support, information and advice to help them stay safe and healthy. The HR & OD Team have been working collaboratively with partners, such as Renfrewshire leisure and the Health and Social Care Partnership, to provide a package of Mental Health and Physical Wellbeing support that is accessible for all employees.
- 6.15 There have already been some significant changes to the way frontline employees are supported, for example, providing an enhanced, bespoke counselling service for those working on the shielding telephone line. Going forward, the engagement package will take the form of spot lighting certain key topics such as home working, physical exercise and healthy eating. The first event to take place will highlight that 18 – 22 May 2020 is Mental Health Awareness Week with a range of relevant topics covered.

7. Service Updates

- 7.1 Relevant service updates on specific issues that have not been reported before are included below:

Service Update – Finance & Resources

- 7.2 At its meeting on 20 March 2020, the Emergencies Board agreed to cancel all meetings of the Council and its Boards for the period 20 March to 24 June 2020. The meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (JNC) which had been timetabled to be held on Tuesday 2 June 2020 was included amongst the meetings cancelled as a result of the Board's decision.
- 7.3 The next scheduled meeting of the JNC after the cancelled meeting is due to be held on 1 September 2020 which falls within the next school session, 2020/2021. The Council has received a request from the teachers' side of the JNC, requesting that a remotely held meeting of the JNC be held before the end of the current school academic session in June. Children's Services is supportive of the reinstatement of the meeting which would allow for a local agreement to be reached in relation to teachers returning to the classroom in light of any amendments to national terms and conditions.

Service Update – Communities and Public Protection:

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020

- 7.4 The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 were enacted on 27 March, with powers for Councils to visit and prohibit businesses that were not compliant with the Regulations. In line with the Council Integrated Enforcement Policy, businesses have been supported by officers adopting an "engage, explain, encourage and then enforce" model which affords people the best opportunity to comply before any enforcement action is taken.
- 7.5 One of the challenges is that the legislation was written very quickly and there are areas where the regulations and guidance don't give absolute clarity. One example is the term "essential businesses". The term "essential" didn't translate

into the legislation, therefore a business is either specifically mentioned in the legislation or it is not. This has led to complaints regarding businesses operating that the public consider “non-essential” e.g. car washes, however, as they are not specifically mentioned within the legislation, there are no powers to close them unless they are not adhering to physical distancing or other relevant guidance. Other queries have been received in relation to dog groomers, hotels, food businesses, pubs, garden centres, hardware stores, banks and barbers.

- 7.6 The tables below provide current information on the numbers of enquiries and complaints received and the proactive work done to support local businesses and ensure compliance with all appropriate legislation during this exceptional period.

	Numbers received	Numbers advice issued to	Complaint substantiated	Number of warnings issued
Enquiries/complaints relating to businesses	41	41	9	2

	Number of interventions	Number of revisits/calls	Number of warnings issued	Number of prohibition notices issued
Proactive interventions to businesses	343	18	6	1

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – although at this stage not quantified, the Council will experience a wide range of significant financial pressures arising from the impact of the pandemic on the population as well as the economic and social disruption caused by the associated restrictions being deployed by national governments. Significant financial pressures will emerge in a wide range of forms from loss of income, exceptional service costs, significant increase in demand for services, the need for additional and new interventions, urgent and immediate support arrangements and services from the Council to help individuals, families and businesses across Renfrewshire as well as the Council’s workforce. The Scottish Government has provided a range of immediate funding announcements to provide specific support via local authorities to both individuals and businesses as well as a degree of general funding to assist local authorities in managing immediate financial pressures. Engagement will continue between COSLA and the Scottish Government regarding further funding as the period of emergency extends, however notwithstanding, the Council will experience significant financial impact and disruption that will require it to draw heavily on all its financial reserves and which is likely to take some time to recover
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – the Council’s workforce represents a major part of the local population and as such is being impacted directly by the spread of confirmed cases, but much more significantly by the public health directions for self-isolation given to those displaying symptoms and those with family members displaying symptoms as well as those in the at risk groups instructed to pro-actively implement strict social distancing arrangements. Full support and communication are being provided to all staff members to

ensure they remain fully informed of the developing situation and where appropriate and practical, are being supported to work safely at home and or safely return to active work once recovered or free of recommended self-isolation periods. The impact of these factors will increase exponentially over coming days and weeks and therefore the scale of availability across the Council's workforce will come under unprecedented pressures. Working closely with national government, partners and trade unions the Council will by necessity be required to actively manage and redeploy staffing resources to meet the most critical services over this exception emergency period.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

Covid-19 will impact on the operations of Council partners and on services to the community. This paper highlights the work being undertaken to mitigate this impact as far as possible and maintain essential services for the safety and wellbeing of the community.

4. **Legal – N/A**

5. **Property/Assets – N/A**

6. **Information Technology –** ICT are working to ensure staff have the capability to work from home wherever possible to reduce social contact in line with government and health guidance

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. **Health & Safety –** Advice and guidance is being given to protect the health and safety of employees and service users when carrying out priority services for the Council in line with government and health guidance

9. **Procurement – N/A**

10. **Risk –** Due to the severity of the global pandemic and Covid-19, there is a risk to the delivery of the services with staff levels being reduced. This is being closely monitored by the Emergency Management Team. Business Continuity Plans have been reviewed and the risk has been added to the Corporate Risk Register.

11. **Privacy Impact - None.**

12. **COSLA Policy Position – Not Applicable**

13. **Climate Risk – Not Applicable**

List of Background Papers

None

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Appendix 1 - Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Renfrewshire

Figure 1 - Renfrewshire, Location of COVID-19 Deaths

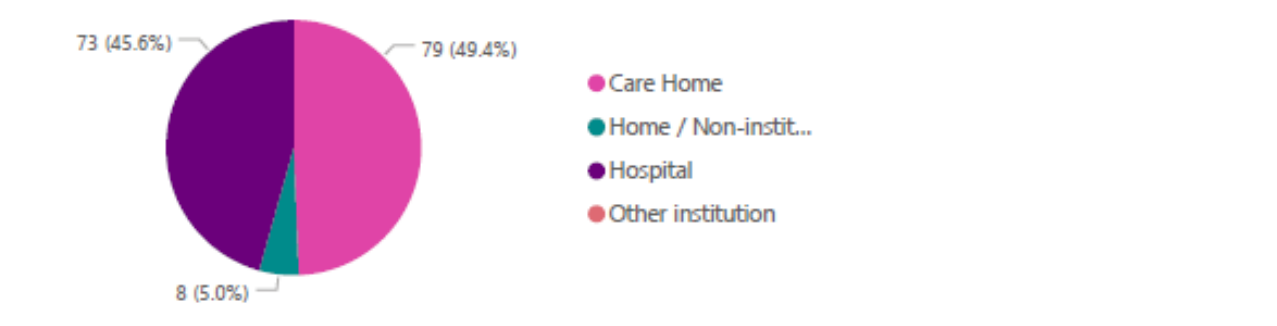


Figure 2 - COVID-19 Deaths Per 10,000 pop by Local Authority

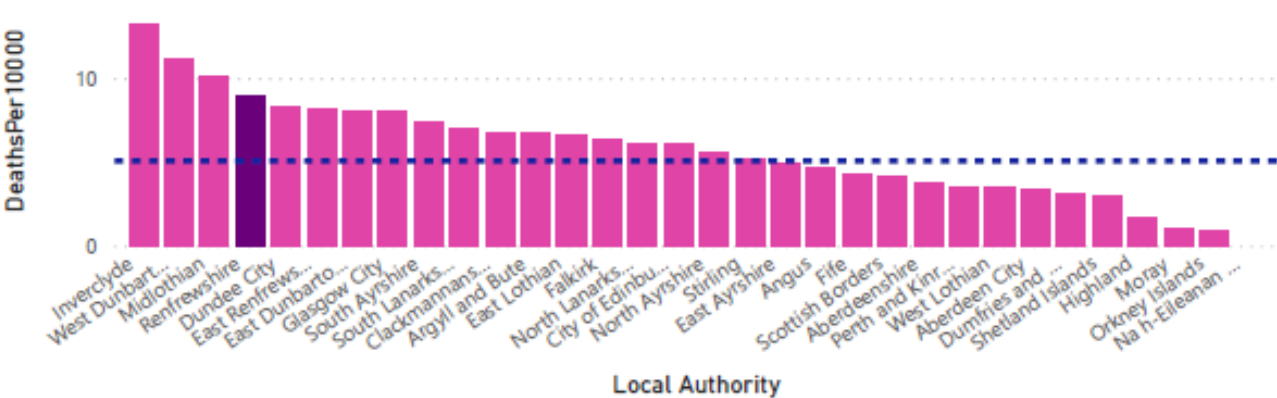
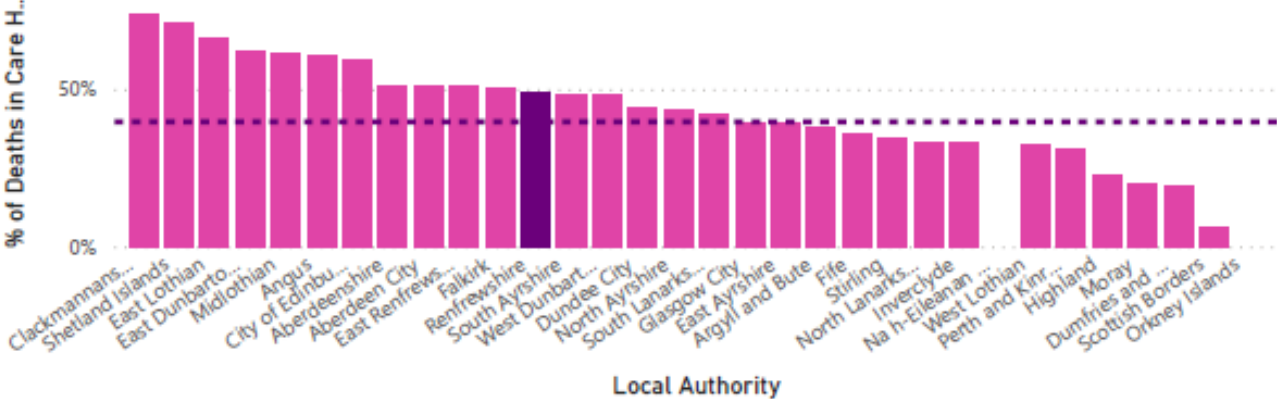


Figure 3 - % of COVID-19 Deaths in Care Homes by Local Authority



Deaths recorded since the 18th March 2020
Source: National Records Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>



To: Emergencies Board

On: 15 May 2020

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: Financial Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report outlines the current estimated financial impact on the Council arising from the current Covid-19 pandemic. Members should note that as outlined in the report, the financial implications for the Council continue to emerge and develop as the impact and consequences of the pandemic both for Council services and for communities across Renfrewshire continue to evolve.
- 1.2 As outlined for the Board in earlier general update reports, the financial and economic consequences of the pandemic are expected to be significant in the short term, with unprecedented financial interventions made by national governments to support the immediate COVID19 response, the economy and businesses.
- 1.3 Despite this, the economy across the UK and Scotland will experience the sharpest and deepest downturn in modern history and there is a growing concern that the period of recovery, although sharp will not be as immediate as was first considered a possibility and could be more drawn out. The Bank of England's most recent analysis highlights uncertainty of being able to produce normal forecasts but has modelled a plausible economic scenario that would suggest that the lost economic output being recovered by circa summer 2021 based on an assumed gradual relaxation of restrictions from June to September. This however

is far from certain and there is a recognised risk that the recovery from what is now recognised will be the deepest of recessions, may take longer than this scenario and be accompanied by a degree longer lasting economic damage with some industries and sectors being more significantly affected and taking longer to recover than others.

- 1.3 This unprecedented economic turbulence and scale of required state intervention will inevitably have both short and longer term implications for public finances across the UK and Scotland which will require the Council to reconsider its existing 2020/21 budget and potentially fundamentally reassess its medium and longer term financial planning and investment programme as the full financial, economic and fiscal impact of the pandemic becomes clearer in the months ahead and indeed as the Council in response re-shapes its priorities moving forward.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Note the initial financial assessment completed of the potential revenue and capital consequences of the COVID19 pandemic and emergency response along with the anticipated disruption to the Council's planned savings in 2020/21 as outlined in section 4 - 6 of the report.
- 2.2 Note the update provided at section 7 of the funding that has been confirmed by the Scottish Government to support local government's response to COVID19 and wider financial interventions made by the Scottish Government, some of which are being administered and delivered by local authorities on the Government's behalf.
- 2.3 Note that the funding confirmed to date along with anticipated shares of as yet undistributed funding for the Council, is significantly less than the estimated net additional costs to the Council, further, to note that in this current context it is expected that the Council's existing unallocated reserves will require to be fully deployed as part of the wider financial strategy developed in response to the COVID19 emergency.
- 2.4 Note that the Council is continuing to actively work with COSLA to support consistent financial reporting of the net additional costs to local authorities nationally of responding to the current pandemic to inform ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government over the requirement for further additional funding support.
- 2.5 Note it is expected that the net financial impact of responding to the pandemic will continue to increase and develop more fully over coming

months as the national response continues to place demands on Council services for support to local communities and that this will continue through to and during the eventual recovery phase.

- 2.6 Agree to the proposed actions outlined in section 8 of the report to prepare the Council for a mid-year reconsideration and revision of the 2020/21 budget and medium term financial strategy and to note that it would be intended that a full report be targeted for September in this regard.
- 2.7 Agree that as outlined in section 9 a letter of financial support is provided to Renfrewshire Leisure from the Council as part of providing the necessary level of assurance to external audit as part of the closure its 2019/20 accounts.
- 2.8 Note that further updates on the developing financial position and outlook will be provided to the Board on a regular basis over the coming weeks and months as material developments emerge.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 On 9 March 2020 Council agreed a balanced revenue budget for 2020/21 and a capital plan for 2020/21-2024/25. Both a Housing Revenue Account for 2020/21 and housing investment plan were also agreed. The general fund revenue budget agreed is underpinned by cost reductions of £13.9m, of which £4.3m relate to actions under the Right for Renfrewshire programme and other savings agreed in prior years.
- 3.2 Since the approval of the budget, only some two months ago, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted significantly on the delivery of Council services and that of partners, as well as being required to mobilise a significant range of additional support services to communities and businesses across Renfrewshire.
- 3.3 This report provides an initial assessment of the financial implications that are expected to emerge in relation predominantly to the immediate short term emergency response from the Council insofar as these can be known at this stage. The report also highlights the expectation that as we move forward over the coming months the financial consequence from the pandemic is likely to increase further as the Council's ongoing response continues and as the requirement to support communities and businesses through a recovery process builds.
- 3.4 Further, the report outlines that the unprecedentedly negative economic impact across the UK and Scotland arising from the necessary

restrictions imposed by the public health measures taken to manage the pandemic on both society and the workings of the wider economy. This will push the medium to longer term outlook for the economy and public finances in both the UK and Scotland once again into a new period of uncharted and unprecedented territory, at a time when the long term influence of the 2008 financial crisis on public finances was reducing in scale and influence.

4 Revenue expenditure impacts for the Council

- 4.1 Given the pandemic's unprecedented impact on the Council's activities and communities, it is acknowledged that the full financial consequences for the Council, even in the short term, will only begin to emerge over time. It is apparent that in addition to the short term initial costs of rapidly introducing new services and support arrangements to communities across Renfrewshire as well as adapting and changing how the Council is required to operate, there is expected to be longer term additional cost and declining income implications for the Council which could take a number of months to emerge and be fully understood.
- 4.2 The financial consequences of the pandemic for the Council will also be influenced by both local and national factors and decisions – most notably in relation the duration of and any potential adjustment to the current lockdown arrangements and consequently longer term social distancing measures required to contain the spread of the virus.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this report (and in line with guidance agreed by COSLA) an estimate of the potential additional costs for the Council has been made assuming the current lockdown arrangements are maintained broadly unadjusted until the end of June 2020. Therefore, the costs of the current emergency arrangements are assumed to be in place for approximately three months since the lockdown arrangements began at the end of March. These estimates will continue to be subject to review and refinement; particularly as the timetable for a return to 'normal' Council activities becomes clear.
- 4.4 The tables 1 - 3 in Appendix 1 outlines the main areas of direct additional expenditure, lost income and cost savings the Council is incurring as a result of the current emergency arrangements. Please note that this excludes costs linked to Adult Services provided via the HSCP which is subject to separate cost tracking and funding discussions with the Scottish Government.
- Direct costs over the period to June are estimated at circa £3.9 million focused predominantly on supporting the Council's direct response to the immediate emergency.

- Loss of income due to the closedown period of circa £10.7 million. This figure includes an assumed residual impact beyond June on Renfrewshire Leisure facilities re-opening, where re-opening beyond the end of June would be phased and behavioural impact is likely to result in a gradual as opposed to an immediate return of the public's participation levels and footfall at leisure facilities in particular.
- Savings of circa £2.1 million that will be achieved on some services, predominantly linked to the closure of buildings and facilities. This figure is expected to increase as the process to furlough sections of eligible staff from Renfrewshire Leisure is progressed under the UK Governments Job Retention Scheme.
- Taken together the current net cost impact is estimated at circa £12.5 million, subject to the saving to be confirmed from the furlough exercise in Renfrewshire Leisure. This overall level of net direct costs of managing the immediate response is expected to be broadly in proportion to the national position being coordinated via COSLA to support the ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government.

4.5 In addition to the direct net costs emerging from the COVID19 response, Appendix 1 outlines in table 4, consequential financial impacts that relate directly to the disruption on the Council, the wider community and economy. Financially this is expected to manifest itself predominantly in lost council tax income, bad debt levels and delays to the delivery of planned savings. It is expected that in relation to each of these areas, the actual impact will take several months to emerge over the course of 2020/21 and become clear. At this stage, illustrative estimates are detailed in Appendix 1, outlining a credible scenario that could emerge over the course of 2020/21. This scenario suggests a net financial loss of circa £14.3 million against what has been budgeted as part of setting the 2020/21 budget – the actual impact may clearly be more or less than this depending upon a wide range of influencing factors.

4.6 It is assumed that moving into 2021/22 the financial impact would to a degree regularise and return to normal financial planning levels in relation to council tax collection levels and the delivery of delayed savings. It is however expected that there would be a longer term economic scarring impact in relation to increased council tax reduction levels arising from increased unemployment and potentially subdued house building completions reflecting wider economic conditions and

market uncertainty, similar to the economic fall-out from the financial crisis in 2008.

- 4.7 Taken together therefore, the overall net financial impact on the Council's revenue budget is estimated at this stage, to be circa £26 million - £27 million in 2020/21, based on existing assumptions and assuming the continuation of the lockdown period to the end of June. If the lockdown period continues beyond the end of June and or there is a need for the Council to continue to provide significantly enhanced ongoing support arrangements across communities as part of the new Test, Trace, Isolate and Support (TTIS) phase and thereafter the recovery phase, it is fully expected that these estimated costs would increase further. The costs above do not include other costs the Council is incurring in supporting the Renfrewshire HSCP, on the basis that it is assumed all of these costs will be recovered through the HSCP from the Scottish Government.
- 4.8 The figures above will be subject to ongoing review and it is likely that they will change – possibly substantially – as new information comes to light and as the current lockdown and social distancing arrangements flex in line with government advice. Both costs and savings will be regularly examined to ensure the Council is as informed as possible as to the potential financial exposure it faces. However, this is likely to be significant and the Council should prepare to address net additional costs in the order of magnitude outlined above. Given the scale of this financial position, it is vital the Council continues to support COSLA to pro-actively and positively engage with the Scottish Government, reflecting the overall seriousness of the financial position facing the Council both in the immediate and longer term.
- 4.9 It should also be noted that the costs outlined above take no account of measures the Council may wish to put in place to support the economic recovery of the area over those already agreed as part of existing arrangements.

5 Delivery of Approved Revenue Savings

- 5.1 As outlined above, the 2020/21 budget is underpinned by over £4 million of savings, largely those agreed by Council through the Right for Renfrewshire (RFR) programme. In the financial analysis outlined in section 4 above, it has been assumed at this stage that the deliverability of these savings in 2020/21 as planned will be significantly disrupted and there will be no material delivery of savings this financial year.
- 5.2 In light of the current emergency arrangements and operational demands on services, the RFR programme has been formally paused,

meaning that the changes in services which were planned for 2020/21 will in most instances be delayed. At this stage it is not clear when the programme will be able to be formally recommenced.

5.3 A proportion of the savings being delivered under RFR are linked to the release of a number of existing staff through voluntary early retirement or voluntary redundancy release. This process was significantly advanced immediately prior to the COVID19 disruption and staff who had formally agreed a leaving date have been asked to voluntarily postpone this date and remain in the Council's employment until 31 March 2021 given the developing circumstances and disruption to change. Around two thirds of the approximate 180 staff scheduled to formally leave the Council have confirmed an intention to still leave on their planned release date. The impact of this will be considered in light of the current emergency arrangements, the level of planned service change that was already or can continue to be delivered in service areas despite the current disruption and an assessment made as to whether temporary cover arrangements are required to manage this loss in capacity at this time.

5.4 There may therefore remain a degree of financial saving that could yet be captured in 2020/21 that will assist in offsetting the overall net financial position. It is expected that this will take some weeks to confirm however it is likely to remain at the financial margins in the context of the estimated net cost of the emergency.

6 Capital Investment Plans

6.1 The Council agreed in March capital investment plans for housing and general services for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 which included investment totalling £368 million. In the current financial year, it was planned that spend of £130 million would take place.

6.2 The short-term cessation of construction sites and subsequent working restrictions once they re-open as part of the public health response to COVID19 will impact on the Council's capital plan over 2020/21 and likely the medium term.

6.3 The full impact will not be fully understood for some months however it is anticipated there will be significant risk of substantial additional costs arising from live projects as the closedown and subsequent social distancing restrictions drive up costs of operating live construction sites and builds in unavoidable time delays and costs into the completion of projects.

- 6.4 A significant pro-active engagement exercise has already been commenced by officers which will seek to engage contractors early to achieve mutually agreeable adjustments to contract arrangements and avoid potentially expensive, disruptive and protracted legal disputes. In addition, the economic impact on the construction sector and supporting supply chains is anticipated to be significant and it is anticipated there will be increased risks of cost growth over the short to medium term from additional construction inflation which was not previously expected pre-COVID19, along with significantly heightened risk of contractor failures as firms grapple with sustainably managing their way through the impact of COVID19. This is expected to both delay the timing of planned procurement exercises as well as potentially result in higher costs than would have been expected pre-COVID19.
- 6.5 Developing a more complete understanding of such issues and risks is likely to take some time to achieve and at which point considerable ongoing uncertainty would be expected to remain over the medium term. However, the risks to the deliverability of the agreed capital plan within the financial envelope set prior to COVID19 would appear to be escalating, bringing into question the ability of the Council to deliver its infrastructure and housing investment plans and priorities as was envisaged prior to the COVID19 pandemic. It is therefore likely, that as part of a revised financial strategy, the Council will be required to fundamentally re-assess both the affordability envelope of its capital investment plans as well as the deliverability of it over previously planned timescales. It would appear at this stage, there is a significant risk that there will be a requirement for the Council to re-consider, re-prioritise and re-shape the scale and timing of the capital investment plan that is currently approved.

7 Funding

- 7.1 A summary of the additional funding outlined by the Scottish Government is provided in Appendix 2, detailing that in total circa £2.7 billion has been deployed by the Scottish Government to target a wide range of specific interventions in response to the COVID19 emergency.
- 7.2 However of this only £80 million has been distributed to local government at this stage with a future circa £180 million (assuming £25 million is provided for Council Tax reduction) yet to be distributed, providing in total circa £260 million to support services provided directly by local authorities, just under 10% of the overall funding deployed by the Scottish Government.

- 7.3 Of this, the Council has received £2.7m of the £80 million distributed to date and would expect to receive in the region of £5.3 million - £5.8 million of the estimated undistributed £180 million based on normal distribution approaches. This would provide a share for the Council of circa £8 million - £8.8 million of the confirmed funding made available to directly support local government. This is significantly less than the estimated £26 million - £27 million of net additional costs outlined in section 4 above and indeed is also less than the estimated net additional costs of the direct impact over the initial emergency response period through to the end of June of circa £12.5 million (albeit note that this is expected to reduce once the impact of furloughing sections of the RL workforce is clearly established).
- 7.4 Following agreed relaxations by the Scottish Government, opportunities are actively being explored to allow the flexible redirection of other Scottish Government funding streams to assist in offsetting additional costs including Early Learning and Childcare expansion funding, Pupil Equity Funding and Attainment Challenge Funding as a means to partly assist in closing this funding gap. However at this stage based on the funding announced to date and in the absence of any further additional funding, there is a significant risk that the Council will be required to fully deploy its unallocated reserves as part of a wider financial strategy response to assist in addressing the potential financial impact in the very short term period over the course of 2020/21.
- 7.5 The annual accounts for 2019/20 are currently being finalised, however the emerging financial outturn position is expected to show a marginal overspend position - broadly in line with budget monitoring reports to members but reflecting additional unanticipated costs in the final weeks of the financial year linked to COVID19 as well as higher than planned adjustment to bad debt provisions linked to the projected negative economic impact of the pandemic and how this is likely to feed through ultimately to poorer prospects for the overall collectability of a range of existing debts.
- 7.6 It is therefore expected that the level of unallocated general fund reserves will be in the order of £6.5 million – £7.0 million as at 1 April 2020, which are likely to be fully utilised as part of an overall financial strategy as outlined in section 8 below.
- 7.7 In addition, at present the Scottish Government has made no commitment to support increased capital costs that may be experienced from COVID19 disruption and this may be an area where local authorities

will be asked to manage the overall financial impact through re-prioritisation and re-scheduling of investment plans. Indeed, at a national level both across Scotland and the UK, revisions to previously planned capital investment plans may be required as part of national budget revisions.

7.8 In addition to direct funding provision provided to local authorities, additional funding supports as outlined in tables 3 and 4 of Appendix 1 are being made available by the Scottish Government to provide a wide range of interventions across business and communities in Scotland including:-

- local authorities acting on behalf of the Scottish Government to release the provision of circa £2.3 billion of financial supports through business grants (£1.2 billion), newly introduced non domestic rate reliefs (£1 billion), grants to newly self employed individuals unable to access other Scottish and UK government support schemes (£34 million) as well as an enhanced provision provided via the existing Scottish Welfare Fund (extra £45 million).
- A further £150 million nationally is being made available for a range of community support delivered through national food arrangements as well as a charity and the third sector bodies.

8. 2020/21 Budget and Financial Strategy Implications

8.1 Engagement will continue between COSLA and the Scottish Government in relation to further funding support for local government in response to not just the immediate emergency and the consequential impact on local authority finances, but also the anticipated additional demands that are expected to be placed on council services to support local communities and businesses through the coming weeks and months as restrictions are expected to be gradually eased, the TTIS phase is fully implemented and ultimately as the pandemic moves eventually into a recovery phase.

8.2 There remains the potential that the UK Government, similar to the already announced position from the Scottish Government, will over the course of the summer move towards announcing a mid-year revision to national budgets for 2020/21. Such revisions may be significant and will take into account:-

- the consequential costs of the rapid and unprecedented scale of financial measures that have been taken in the short term by both the UK and Scottish Governments since the onset of COVID19 to

manage the public health response, support communities, support businesses and protect jobs and support the economy to be in a position to restart as quickly as possible,

- the significant revisions made to the economic outlooks at both a UK and Scottish level, both in terms of the unprecedented short term economic impact and the risks that the recovery may not be as immediate and may take longer than first envisaged with risk of longer term economic damage and scarring.

In such a scenario, there remains the risk that revision to national level financial plans will not be restricted to merely financially accommodating, through for example additional unplanned borrowing, all of the significant spending that has been committed to by both Governments. There is a reasonable prospect that a revision process will involve a degree of re-prioritisation of spending as part of adjusting the 2020/21 budget and wider medium term financial plans. In such a scenario there is a material risk that this will result in direct implications for the Council's budget for 2020/21 and in addition impact, possibly substantially, on the Council's medium term financial outlook.

8.3 In this uncertain and rapidly developing national financial context, there is a need for the Council to begin now to pro-actively progress developing a revised and responsive financial strategy to ensure the Council is able first and foremost to focus on maintaining financial stability in 2020/21. This will be a complex process, with limited clarity expected until firm announcements are made by the respective Governments later in the year.

8.4 Notwithstanding, it would be recommended that the Corporate Management Team begin to progress detailed preparatory work now and over the course of the summer to develop a range of key responses and options that will support the Council's considerations for a revised budget for 2020/21 and actions that will support a reframed medium term financial outlook. The objectives of the revised strategy will be to: -

- Understand the implications, for local government in Scotland and the Council specifically, emerging from any revisions to the UK national budget and the confirmed summer revision to the Scottish Government budget that are announced over coming weeks and months.
- Support the Council to make financial decision post summer that are focused on securing financial stability in 2020/21 in response to the immediate financial implications that have emerged from

COVID19 and the changed financial context from that which existed when the 2020/21 budget was set.

- Support the managed adjustment of spending plans and redirection of financial resources to re-align them with revised priorities identified by the Council as part of the COVID10 response, the TTIS phase and ultimately the recovery period.
- Ensure the council's medium-term financial planning is appropriately adjusted and re-framed for what is likely to be a new phase of materially changed and uncertain financial outlook for public spending across the UK and Scotland.

9 Renfrewshire Leisure

9.1 Renfrewshire Leisure is an arms length organisation which is wholly owned by the Council. The company is also a registered charity. The company is responsible for managing its own financial affairs on a not-for-profit basis, however it is reliant on a service payment from the Council in respect of leisure and cultural services in order to fully cover operating costs which cannot be fully met through commercial operations.

9.2 Owing to the current lockdown, the majority of RL operations and facilities are closed – resulting in a position where little commercial income can be generated. Providing ongoing financial support to RL has and will continue to be recognised as part of the exceptional costs being experienced by the Council as a consequence of COVID19 and this is expected to continue for a period beyond when facilities re-open due to behavioural impacts on footfall use of facilities. RL is actively seeking to make savings wherever possible in order to offset losses, including the furloughing of relevant staff and mitigate the overall financial support requested from the Council.

9.3 In preparing their 2019/20 financial accounts, the RL board will be required to make active disclosures of the impact of COVID19 on the organisation. In addition, and in the context of the scale of commercial disruption to RL's cash generating activities, their external auditor will appropriately seek assurances over the financial going concern of the Trust in the following 12 month period covering 2020/21. In order to meet this requirement, a letter of support will be required to be provided by the Council, providing assurance that RL will over the course of 2020/21 be financially supported by the Council to offset the loss of commercial income due to COVID19 disruption providing financial security and

allowing the 2019/20 accounts to be completed on a continued going concern basis.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the report sets out a number of very significant financial implications for the Council in terms of its response to support individuals, families, businesses and communities deal with the effects of the pandemic. These implications are likely to fundamentally challenge the financial stability and sustainability of the Council in the short to medium term without substantial national government support, early planning and significant and decisive action being taken by the Council over coming months to adjust its revenue and capital spending plans that were approved in March 2020 prior to the significant onset of the COVID19 emergency.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – n/a at this stage
3. **Community/Council Planning** – n/a at this stage
4. **Legal** – n/a at this stage
5. **Property/Assets** – the report outlines significant potential affordability challenges to the council's capital investment programme in both the short and medium term.
6. **Information Technology** – n/a at this stage
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - *none*
9. **Procurement** – *n/a*

10. **Risk** – the report outlines risks to the financial position of the Council and therefore the ability of the Council to continue to deliver services in a financial sustainable manner.
11. **Privacy Impact** - *none*
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – the Council is liaising regularly with COSLA in terms of a coordinated approach to the collation and sharing of financial information related to the Covid-19 pandemic and supporting critical ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government in relation to both immediate and longer term funding of local government.
13. **Climate Change impact** – *n/a*

Author: Alan Russell, Director of Finance & Resources

	Revenue - General Fund £000s	Revenue - HRA £000s	Notes
Table 1 - Immediate response costs			
Childcare for key workers	375		
Other childcare costs	217		
Supply teacher additional costs	510		Additional costs to comply with national SNCT Circular
Sheltered housing additional support		170	
Homeless services	84		Block booked accommodation to support increased homelessness presentations
Free school meals cash payments	845		Gross cost to end of June - partly offset by school meal production savings below
Food & toiletries provision to vulnerable clients	360		Supplies costs only - no additional staffing costs as staff redeployed from other Council duties
Staff overtime/additional hours	668		Council wide based on costs estimated over 3 months
Staff PPE	270		PPE for non-HSCP staff
ICT support	133		Rapid deployment of additional laptops, increased licenses, wireless access etc to facilitate home working
Waste collection	270		Implementing social distancing measures on collection routes, plus increased household waste tonnages
Sub-total	3,732	170	

Table 2 - Income loss			
Council services - Fees and charges lost income	1,728		Wide range of sales, fees and charges lost due to lockdown arrangements e.g. letting, parking etc
RL lost commercial income	5,202		Note this assumes an initial 4 months lockdown with phased re-opening and a gradual behavioural led re-use of leisure facilities by the public as confidence grows across the community.
HRA rental income - assumed loss 20/21		782	Estimate based on 3 month lockdown impact plus several months to recover
Building Services	300	2,700	Potential income loss to building services while construction & maintenance is suspended
Sub-total	7,230	3,482	

	Revenue - General Fund £000s	Revenue - HRA £000s	Notes
Table 3 - Savings from Areas of Reduced Spend			
Reduced service provision - Council	(448)	(540)	Building services materials, utilities cost savings, school meal provisions saving
Reduced service provision - RL	(1,144)		Predominantly utilities savings
Savings arising from Furloughing of selected RL staff	TBC		This exercise remains ongoing with expected savings from March through to June subject to confirmation
Sub-total	(1,592)	(540)	

Total additional cost (exc HSCP support)	9,370	3,112
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Table 4 - Consequential Costs			
Increased bad debts	2,500		Across both sundry debt and prior years council tax
Delayed saving implementation 20/21	4,300		Disruption and wider support arrangements required for COVID19 will reduce significantly the Council's ability to progress the Right for Renfrewshire Change Programme. A detailed review of implementation will be required as the COVID19 response over the coming months becomes clearer which may reduce this estimated delay in savings over the coming months.
Council tax income - assumed loss 20/21 based on circa 9% loss against budget	7,500		This remains significantly unpredictable and will take a number of months to become fully apparent. This estimated figure is based on an overall 9% impact on budgeted income and will ultimately be driven by the cumulative impact from a number of factors including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced new housebuilding completions that were budgeted due to stalled construction sites. 2. Increased levels of CTR uptake reflecting increased eligibility flowing from higher unemployment levels. 3. Reduced in year collection rate reflecting financial difficulties experienced by liable parties along with the decision to temporarily suspended follow up activity. 4. The expectation of the need to increase the level of bad debt provision in closing the 2020/21 financial accounts to reflect the poorer recoverability of what will be a greater level of outstanding debt.

Consequential Costs	14,300	-
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Overall Revenue Impact	23,670	3,112
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External funding confirmed to date

Table 1 : Confirmed funding sources to support Council Services - Distribution confirmed	Purpose and uses of fund	Scotland-wide funding allocation £m	Renfrewshire allocation (where confirmed) £m	Notes
Hardship Fund	Barnett Consequentials of UK announcement to contribute to local authorities' own local resilience, support and hardship plans; non-ringfenced, no associated reporting and to be deployed as councils see fit.	50.000	1.632	This is currently the main funding source against which the Council's non-Health and Social Care-related additional costs and losses of income may be offset.
Food Fund	Support to organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to address issues of food insecurity, especially for older people, and families who may not be able to rely on free school meals.	30.000	1.063	Following agreement by COSLA Leaders, allocations to local authorities for £30m of the fund (£15m for continuity in each of (i) FSM provision and (ii) food for vulnerable groups) have now been confirmed. It is anticipated that any direct costs of food distribution to vulnerable citizens as part of the "shielding" project will also be eligible for support.
Registration services	To support additional costs of providing death registration services 7 days a week.	0.600	0.020	Funding distribution to be on the basis of population - exact amount tbc
		80.600	2.715	

Table 2 : Confirmed funding sources to support Council Services - Undistributed				
Increased eligibility for Social Security Benefits and Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Supplementary funding to meet an anticipated increase in applications for the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Scottish Social Security Benefits - no details have yet been released as to the split of the £50m between these two areas	50.000	TBC	The element of the Fund provided in respect of CTRS remains to be confirmed and will be based on actual expenditure relative to existing funding provision - assuming half the resources were provided for CTRS Renfrewshire would expect to receive circa £0.8 million
Local Government Barnett Consequentials	Barnett consequentials of UK funding to local authorities in England and Wales; commitment to pass on funding in full provided by Scottish Government Finance Secretary	155.000	TBC	It has been confirmed this will be passed on to LG in Scotland but distribution and any specific use of the funds yet to be confirmed - based on normal distribution principles Renfrewshire would expect to receive circa £4.5 million - £5 million
		205.000	-	

Table 3 : Funding Administered and Deployed by Councils on behalf of the Scottish Government				
Business Support Fund	Targeted grants intended to help protect jobs, prevent business closure and promote economic recovery. These complement other measures in place to support business, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.	1,188.000	30.000	80% of the total funding provided early April, a balancing payment will be made later in the year such that expenditure incurred and funding received should result in no net cost to councils. Figures shown assume full take-up.
NDR relief	100% relief in 2020/21 for retail, hospitality and tourism-based businesses	950.000	TBC	The impact on Renfrewshire businesses will be confirmed once billing software has been adapted for these confirmed changes and revised billing produced for 2020/21
Freezing of effective NDR poundage	Relief provided such that poundage maintained at 2019/20 levels	50.000	TBC	
Hardship fund for self employed	The fund provides a one off £2,000 grant to newly self employed individuals suffering hardship due to coronavirus and who fail to qualify for any existing UK or Scottish Government support measures	34.000	1.032	60% of the funding allocated to councils initially with the remainder held back to meet adjustments required to meet actual local demand
Scottish Welfare Fund	Top-up of existing 2020/21 allocation to allow payment of additional Community Grants and Crisis Grants to those in immediate need, more than doubling the current level of the fund across Scotland; also includes sums to reflect relaxation of existing criteria to support those in "gig economy".	45.000	1.600	Only £22m of the Scotland-wide funding has been allocated to date, based on the current SIMD-related methodology; the remaining £23m will be targeted to areas of greatest need, with distribution arrangements to be agreed. This funding is not available to offset council response costs - The Council has received £0.782 million from the initial £22 million distributed to date and it is estimated that this will increase to circa £1.6 million on the distribution of the second tranche of £23 million.
		2,267.000	32.632	

Table 4 : Funding distributed to other sectors to support Communities				
Food Fund	Set aside for a nationally procured programme to deliver food for those who are unable to leave their homes due to being at highest clinical risk, known as the shielded group.	30.000	n/a	
Food Fund	Set aside for investment in third sector organisations that are responding to food insecurity both at a national and local level	10.000	n/a	
Third Sector Resilience Fund	Represents support to ensure the health and continued viability of the third sector organisations affected by cash flow and other problems, which have a key role to play in the overall national response	20.000	n/a	
Well-Being Fund	Support to help charities and others who require additional capacity to work with at-risk people who may be worst affected by the crisis, including homeless people and those experiencing fuel poverty.	50.000	n/a	Funding will be provided directly to third sector
Supporting Communities Fund	Funds used to support community efforts at a local level which will be vital to national resilience, including supporting people at risk because of age, isolation, carers, homeless people and asylum seekers and signposting people to sources of help such as applying for benefits.	40.000	n/a	Funding will be provided directly to community groups
Unallocated funding	Represents sums to be kept in reserve to allow swift and flexible responses to rapidly-changing circumstances.	25.000	n/a	
		175.000	-	
Overall Total		2,727.600	35.347	

