

Minute of Meeting Emergencies Board

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 12 June 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, A Morrison, Head of Economic Development 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, E Shields, Business Services Manager and L Belshaw, 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); 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 5 June 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, COVID19 pandemic. The report provided information on the national position including the number of cases and deaths at both Scottish and UK levels. The recent publication of updated figures and analysis from the National Records of Scotland was also included which showed that the rate of increase in deaths from COVID-19 was slowing. A summary was also given of policy and guidance updates that had been released since the previous meeting of the Board held on 5 June 2020. It was noted that as at 11 June 2020 there were 291,409 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in hospitals in the UK up from 281,661 reported on 5 June 2020. In Scotland there were now 15,682 confirmed hospital cases (up from 15,553). Of these, 3,995 cases were within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area (up from 3,961). In the GGCHB area there were 272 people in hospital (down from 317) and fewer than 5 in intensive care as either confirmed or suspected cases.

The report intimated that at a Scottish level the latest National Records of Scotland (NRS) report showed that at 7 June 2020, there had been a total of 4,000 deaths registered in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate – up 89 from 3,911 deaths registered up to 31 May 2020. The NRS analysis also provided continuing indicators of progress in how the country was responding to the outbreak. In addition, the NRS information also provided additional detail to understand the position and changing impact of the outbreak in Renfrewshire and this week, the data showed a continuation in the suppression of the virus at a local level. However, Renfrewshire still had the fifth highest death rate in Scotland.

The report referred to the introduction of quarantine measures; the continuation of shielding arrangements; funding announcements and the impact of the virus on the Scottish and Renfrewshire economies. It was noted that officers were at an early stage of preparing an Economic Recovery Plan for Renfrewshire.

The report provided an update on the Council's services in terms of Phase 1 of the Scottish Government's recovery plan including the return of children to school on 11 August 2020; the Spaces for People Fund, cycling; support for care at home, and for shielded and vulnerable people and oversight of care homes, test and protect arrangements, support for employees, sourcing and stocks of PPE and staff testing.

The report also considered the easing of lockdown identified in Phase 2 of the Scottish Government's recovery plan which was due to commence on 18 June 2020. However,

the report noted that the Scottish Government had highlighted that these steps would only be taken if current indications that the virus was suppressed continued, that the Trace and Protect programme continued to operate effectively and that the NHS continued to cope well. At this stage it remained unclear which elements of the Phase 2 lockdown plans reported to Board previously would be implemented, but from statements made by the First Minister, the Phase 2 planned measures could be introduced on a phased basis over a period of time rather than all being implemented immediately.

Members heard from the Chief Executive in relation to the national and local picture in relation to care home deaths; from the Acting Head of Health & Social Care (Paisley) in relation to care home admissions, including isolation arrangements, end of life visiting arrangements, testing of care home staff and residents and noted that as since 23 May 2020 there had been no positive tests of Covid-19 in any Renfrewshire care home; from the Head of Economic Development in relation to the support and financial assistance for businesses and the self employed, noting that to date £23m of funds had been distributed; that there were 23,000 employees on furlough and in relation to the approach to cafes and bars with outdoor areas seeking to open, including a one-stop-shop; from the Director of Children's Services in relation to the arrangements for children returning to school on 11 August 2020; from the Director of Environment & Infrastructure on safe routes to school; and from the Business Services Manager on the increasing numbers of Universal Benefit claims and the impact of this on the Council Tax reduction scheme caseload.

Officers responded to members questions and it was proposed (a) that, if the information could be obtained, members be provided with the number of deaths that had occurred as a result of Covid-19 only without any underlying medical conditions; and (b) that in relation to mitigating the economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis on Renfrewshire, whilst recognising that a report would be submitted to the meeting of the Leadership Board to be held on 16 September 2020, that actions being taken towards economic recovery continued to be reported to and recognised by meetings of the Emergencies Board. This was agreed.

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;
- (b) That the response measures being put in place by the Council and its partners be noted;
- (c) That, if the information could be obtained, members be provided with the number of deaths that had occurred as a result of Covid-19 only without any underlying medical conditions; and
- (d) That in relation to mitigating the economic impact on Renfrewshire of the Covid-19 crisis, whilst recognising that a report would be submitted to the meeting of the Leadership Board to be held on 16 September 2020, that actions being taken towards economic recovery continued to be reported to and recognised by meetings of the Emergencies Board.

3 Understanding Covid-19 Risk, Impacts and Outcomes

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to some of the data that was available to help the Council understand the nature and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Renfrewshire and across Scotland. The report intimated that data on the number of positive cases of and deaths due to covid-19 was reported weekly to the Emergencies Board. This report considered the data in detail together with additional data and insight at a local and national level and highlighted the potential wider impact on Renfrewshire's

communities and recommended that this impact was considered as the Council's recovery response was considered with partners.

The report referred to risk infection and transmission and considered the report by Glasgow-based data analytics company Scotianomics which provided a community-risk index of Scotland's 354 council wards, ranking them from most to least at risk of exposure to Covid-19 according to a range of variables. It was noted that their modelling showed the Clyde Valley as the highest risk area in Scotland due to population density, good connectivity and existing health issues. All Renfrewshire wards were within the 80 most at risk wards in Scotland, the most at risk ward being Paisley Southeast (29) and the least at risk ward being Paisley Northwest (77).

The report considered Covid-19 deaths, Non-covid-19 deaths and bereavement and noted that across Scotland and the UK, research, analysis and commentary had been published relating to the factors impacting death rate and deprivation sat alongside age, gender, ethnicity and occupation as contributory factors for an individual's survival chances.

The report referred to those members of the community who were in the 'shielding' group and noted that as at 10 June there were 5,878 Renfrewshire residents in this group. In addition to those shielding, there was a further group of citizens ('group 2') who were likely to be more vulnerable to poor outcomes should they contract the virus; this included the over 70s, pregnant women and people who were normally advised by their GP to get the seasonal flu vaccination. The report highlighted the challenges faced by these groups.

The report outlined the health, social and economic impact of the virus, particularly on those communities already suffering deprivation and noted that at a Scottish level, the Scottish Government had announced that an expert advisory board was to be established which would listen to and learn from people with lived experience of poverty and inequality.

In relation to the recovery response, the report concluded that the existing research, analysis and understanding of Renfrewshire communities and work with community planning partners, put the Council in a good position to ensure its policy response, collaborative recovery planning and combined support took due cognisance of the particular needs of these groups, communities and families.

It was proposed that when further information was available on the impact of Covid-19 on black and minority ethnic groups was available that this be made available to members together with actions proposed to mitigate this. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That it be agreed that the impacts and inequalities across different communities in Renfrewshire be considered as the Council developed the recovery response; and
- (c) That when further information was available on the impact of Covid-19 on black and minority ethnic groups was available that this be made available to members together with actions proposed to mitigate this.

4 Items for Decision by the Board

It was noted that there were no items for decision by the Board.

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.

5 Confidential Updates

It was noted that there were no confidential updates.