

Report of the Chief Executive

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND RECOVERY STRATEGY1. Purpose of report

To ask the committee to approve the strategic approach to leading Broxtowe's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to inform the Committee of decisions made under emergency powers during the emergency.

2. Background

In order to maintain transparency through the decision making process and ensure accountability, reports have been submitted to the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee, the Jobs and Economy Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Leisure and Health Committee, and will be presented to the Finance and resources Committee, detailing the Council's approach during the Covid-19 pandemic in addition to the approach towards post-pandemic operations.

Only two meetings were cancelled due to the initial stages of Covid-19. The Council is now running its full committee cycle under and adhering to the new powers in the Coronavirus Act 2020.

It should be noted that the timing of the pandemic was such that there was a hiatus between committee meetings prior to the Annual Council in May 2020. In order to maintain the Council's decision-making processes during that time, the Chief Executive's urgency powers, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, have been utilised in accordance with the Constitution. These decisions were logged in addition to all service decisions taken within delegated powers made by Heads of Service which related to Covid-19. Decisions which had expenditure implications are outlined in appendix 1 of the report.

Appendix 2 of the report sets out the council's proposed approach to leading Broxtowe's recovery from the pandemic and the role of the Policy and Performance Committee in co-ordinating the efforts of service committees.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the exercise of decisions under emergency powers set out in appendix 1 and RESOLVE that the approach to recovery set out in appendix 2 be approved.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Decision	Cost implications
1. Grants to Voluntary sector organisations to support covid 19 response. A list is provided below of grants which have been made. Further sums have been generated through a crowdfunding appeal and are yet to be distributed .	£62,000
2. As a landlord the Council was approached by a number of business tenants requesting deferral/remission of rent payments. Decisions on these are set out in a separate confidential appendix.	See separate confidential appendix
3. Funding was given to Broxtowe Volunteer centre to support it during handover discussions to another voluntary sector organisation, enabling the continuity of voluntary sector support during a critical period .	£7,000
4. Cease car parking charging and enforcement in line with government guidelines	Loss of income:£5,463 per month
5. Top up Leisure staff pay by 20% to 100% following furloughing	Monthly
6. Additional body storage capacity for crematorium as contingency, fencing, emergency generator , racking	£5,428
7. Additional software modules and e-billing to enable fast rollout of government funded grants	£38,605
8. Council tax levy not imposed (empty property)	£3,696
9. Housing benefit overpayments not recovered in accordance with government guidelines	£31,500
10. Additional software licenses to enable full simultaneous home working	£15,000
11. Additional homelessness accommodation following government guidance regarding rough sleeping	19/20: £7098 20/21: £64,370
12. Furnishing temporary accommodation for homeless people	£2,030
13. Emergency food supply and other necessities for vulnerable tenants	£2,831
14. Outsourced taxi inspections	£225
15. Capital works: additional scaffolding costs due to delay of capital works to two schemes caused by Covid-19	£7,447
16. Extra internal vehicle washing for infection prevention	£500
17. Agency cover for sickness for refuse and additional demand for garden waste collection	19/20 £10,000 20/21: £4,500 per month
18. Purchase of additional PPE and sanitiser	19/20: £850 20/21: £500
19. Purchase of 500 additional garden bins to cater for demand	£10,000
20. Stop trade waste temporarily: lost income	-£7,281

21. Stop bulky waste collections temporarily: lost income	-£4,500
22. Prepare additional plots in Beeston cemetery to cater for extra demand	£9,470
23. Additional costs relating to lone worker safety devices	£280 per month
24. Printing and sending letters to all over 76s	£6,131
25. Loss of income from summer sports activities, summer fairs, ice cream and coffee concessions	£42,940
26. Making and erecting social distancing notices in public spaces	£616
27. Hire of refuse vehicles following breakdown	£31,700
28. Loss of income from letting of a community centre	£3,250

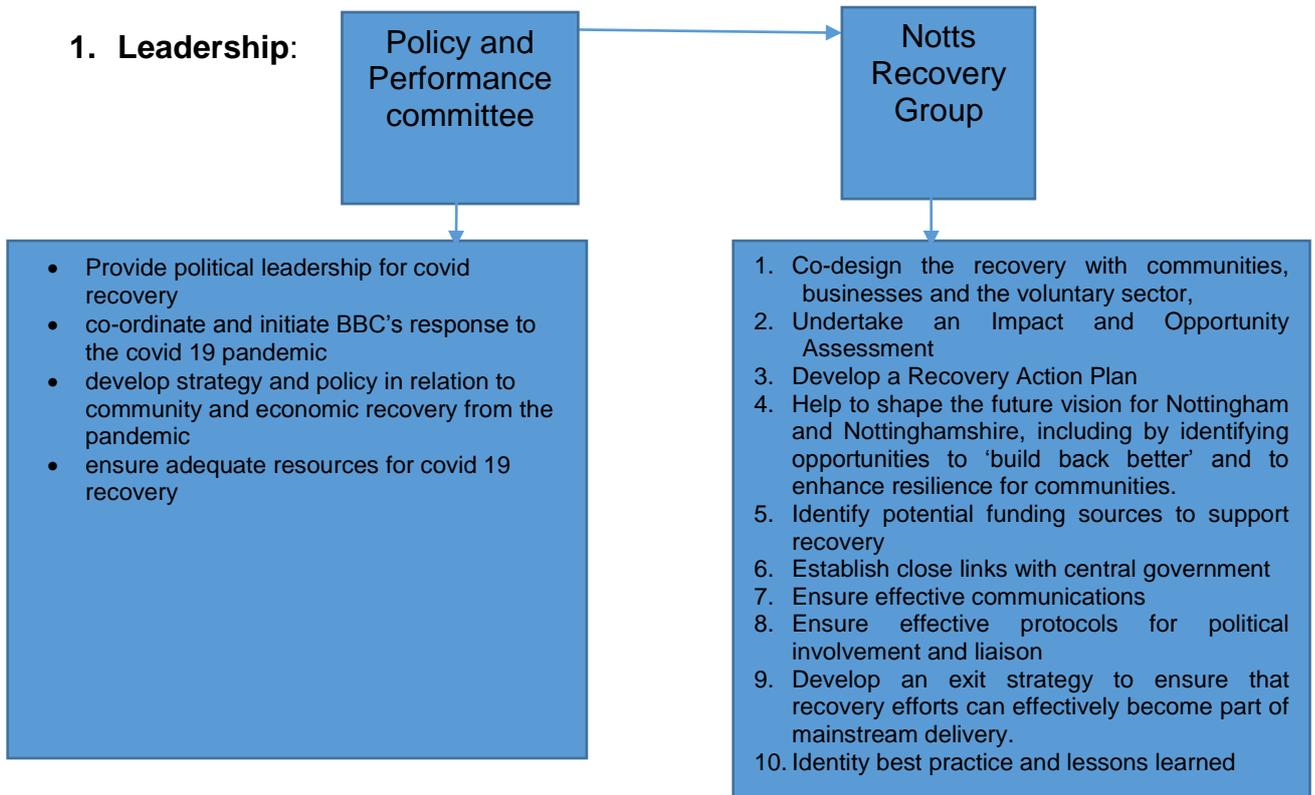
Grants

Group Name	Grant (£)
Eastwood Volunteer Bureau	10000.00
Eastwood Age Concern	10000.00
Middle Street Resource Centre	10000.00
Hope Centre	10000.00
Beeston Rylands Community Association	2000.00
Stapleford Community Group	2000.00
Eastwood Memory Café	2000.00
Brinsley Parish Council	2000.00
Nuthall Parish Council	2000.00
Pulp Friction	2000.00
East Midlands Free Wheelers	2000.00
Kimberley and District Mutual Aid Group	2000.00
*Stapleford and Surrounding Area Mutual Aid Group	2000.00
Beeston and Chilwell Mutual Aid Group	2000.00
Nuthall Parish Council	2000.00
Beeston Rylands Community Association	2000.00
The Helpful Bureau (Stapleford)	2000.00
Total	66000.00

APPENDIX 2

BROXTOWE'S RECOVERY STRATEGY

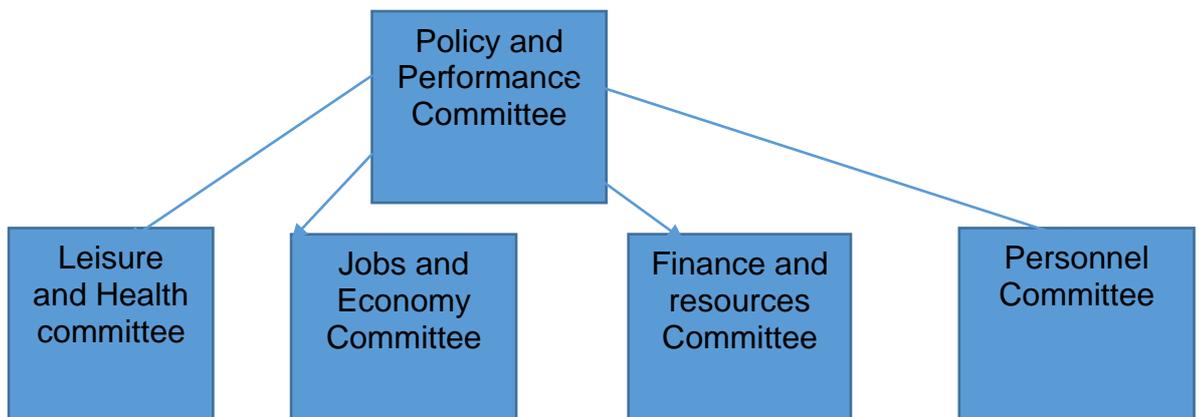
1. Leadership:



2. Vision

The residents and businesses of Broxtowe will not only recover from COVID-19, but emerge with a fairer, more just and enriched community life, better mental and physical health outcomes for all; a sustainable fast growing local economy and a cleaner environment for all to enjoy.

3. Damage and Needs assessment



- Economic needs assessment (Led by Jobs and Economy Committee- see report to that committee 18.6.20)

- Community needs assessment (led by leisure and Health Committee— see report to that committee 10.6.20)
- Internal/BBC services recovery (led by personnel Committee – see report to that Committee 30.6.20)
- Financial recovery (led by Finance and Resources committee) – see report to that committee 9.7.20)

Issues to feed in:

- lesson-learning from the 2020 crisis and how this impacts future emergency planning – particularly with regard to pandemic preparedness and crisis management. (Policy and Performance committee)
- How far BBC and partners might mainstream some of the experiences of very rapid response, adaption, redeployment, and labour flexibility. (Personnel Committee)
- Reflect on implications of more home working and home learning and consequences for economy and place making Need for stable and resilient high bandwidth internet connectivity to sustain. (Jobs and Economy Committee)
- Social impacts: leisure and recreation and the significant impact on these sectors; the highly variable impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups and communities. (Leisure and health Committee)
- Positive impacts experienced including from increased volunteering, reduction in carbon emissions. (Environment Committee)
- Ongoing financial impacts of the pandemic on the Council's finances (Finance and Resources Committee)

4. Initial phase 1 recovery

(a) Public services resumption

Our own services

- How we establish a “new normal “way of operating as a local authority (might include renting out more space within the Council offices)
- How we can adapt our offices and service points to manage health risks
- Catch up on backlogs in service provision: eg repairs
- Manage risk, reduce harm and increase resilience

Town centres and public places

- Deep cleaning; public places
- Managing use to reduce risk of harm
- Promoting our town centres and businesses

Communities

- Providing information

- Restoring confidence- PR internal and external
- Celebrating heroes, successes

(b). Supporting private and third sector basic services

- Review/renew and continue grants
- Identify who the key organisations are we need to work with
- Consider flexing our workforce to further support third sector
- Identify resources we can bid for to support private sector and third sector
- Research the needs and impacts of covid on third sector and business community

(c) Build higher levels of resilience for reopened infrastructure, workplaces and services

- Continue to promote and value the flexibility of workforce agility and homeworking
- Increase resilience of areas like refuse, crematorium, contact centre
- Learn from what we have already done and from good practice elsewhere

(d). Continuing support for those who need it

- Undertake research to identify where our efforts need to be targeted
- Mobilize and enable the community to support one another
- Identify issues relating to inequality of provision, ensure all sections of the community receive the support they need and that all voices are heard.

(e) . Manage our finances

- refreshed business strategy
- Consider needs of those in economic hardship: the hardship fund and rent payments, both individuals and businesses

(f). Continue with existing planned Strategic investments to restart the economy

- Stapleford business hub
- Mushroom farm
- Stapleford Towns fund
- Beeston Regeneration phase 2
- Housebuilding programme
- Decisions about future Leisure provision
- Green investment

5. Medium to Longer Term Recovery Strategy

A: ECONOMY

Develop a **new Economic Development and Regeneration strategy** which

- Ensures a properly balanced and resilient economy, in the light of impacts of covid 19
- Puts as high a value on the role and contribution of key workers as knowledge workers.
- Review investment strategies in the light of impacts of covid 19 on existing businesses.
- Promote new technology and full fibre broadband
- Refresh and repurpose place-based anchor institution collaboration post-crisis (eg Trent and Nottingham Universities)
- Start planning for Eastwood and Kimberley regeneration
- Actively engage in E Mids Development company: HS2/Toton Strategic growth as important for the long term prosperity of the area.

B: ENVIRONMENT

Ensure our **Green Futures programme** fully embraces the opportunities of a dramatic reduction in carbon emissions during the lockdown period.

- a new impetus to green agendas
- Rediscovering local green spaces and essential services within a 10 min walking radius of where you live.
- Embedding behavioural change to save the planet: less commuting, more homeworking
- How can we capitalise on changes to previous modes of travel by promoting pedestrianisation, increased cycle infrastructure, promoting public transport.

C: SOCIAL

Develop **new strategies for the voluntary sector, Food poverty and fuel poverty**

- Map community support. Identify gaps and weaknesses- a risk is that the pandemic will have widened existing inequalities. We need to intentionally strengthen social capital where it is currently weaker.
- Explore the support of ground roots volunteering and encourage street level resident “champions” to increase resilience for future emergencies and capitalise on citizen engagement
- Develop a new voluntary sector strategy to support the community
- Strengthen food banks and consider other key means of social support.
- Support people to keep themselves warm through the Winter months
- Develop initiatives to support mental health- internal and external