
Report to Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 22 October 2020

Subject: Coronavirus Response & Recovery – Debrief Process

Report by: Strategic Director, Partnership & Performance

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. Following agreement of Council on 10 September 2020 to conduct a debrief on the Council's response to the global Coronavirus pandemic, the purpose of this report is to outline a number of next steps in that process.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council notes the approach as set out in the report.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The UK went into lockdown on 23 March 2020 in order to combat an exponential increase in the pace and prevalence of the Coronavirus, thereby preventing our NHS and associated services becoming overwhelmed.
- 3.2. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic required a similarly unprecedented response effort from the Government and third and public sector organisations, to support vulnerable people, communities and indeed the economy. Appendix 1 provides an infographic that includes some aspects of the myriad elements of response the Council supported.
- 3.3. In late May 2020, with virus prevalence significantly reduced, the Scottish Government introduced its four phase Route Map to Recovery. Over the course of the summer, the Council worked to reintroduce a wide range of services to re-open the economy, with significant and particular efforts to restart face to face education, which continues to remain operational.
- 3.4. As more is learnt about the Coronavirus, it would appear that it is here to stay, and it is a disease that humanity will need to live with in perpetuity. At the time of writing, no vaccine exists; therefore, outbreak management will inevitably become part and parcel of daily life, the consequences of which will continue to create disruption, uncertainty and increased demands on Council services for a prolonged, undetermined period.

- 3.5. At the time of writing, the Route Map has been to all intents and purposes paused at Stage 3, and further restrictions have been introduced across Scotland in order to contain a rapidly accelerating resurgence of the virus. This has meant that the focus of Council officers has temporarily swung away from recovery back to response. This pattern of recovery-response-recovery we now expect will become the norm for the foreseeable future.
- 3.6. These circumstances are undoubtedly unprecedented in the context of modern civil contingency management where the patterns would normally follow a short period of response, then recovery and in most circumstances a return to business as usual with weeks if not days. Once business as usual had been established, a debrief and lessons learned exercise would normally inform future planning on a continuous improvement basis.
- 3.7. The nature and trajectory of the current pandemic is uncertain and unprecedented; until such times as a vaccine is widely available, society and as a consequence, Council services are not likely to return to what could be described as business as usual. This fundamentally changes the landscape for civil contingency management, which has become business as usual, with on-the-job learning being part of new daily routines at every level of the organisation.
- 3.8. On the basis of good practice on 10 September 2020, the Council agreed, to a debrief on the Council's response to the pandemic as follows:
- To delegate authority to the Audit Committee to review the outcome of the national enquiry, when available, and the Council's own emergency planning debrief process; and
 - That following the Audit Committee's scrutiny of the enquiry and debrief process, to receive a report from the Audit Committee making recommendations to Council about any further review activity which is required for Clackmannanshire Council.
- 3.9. To initiate the debrief/lessons learnt to date process, the following is proposed over the course of the next 6 months to identify key lessons learnt to date to help shape ongoing management of the pandemic within Clackmannanshire:
- A workshop format with Senior Leaders Forum;
 - A workshop format with partners, including relevant members of the Local Resilience Partnership;
 - A survey of Elected Members;
 - A review of any available national lessons learned to date.
- 3.10. Subject to operational response demands, it is the intention to report the findings of this initial work to Audit Committee before the 2021 summer recess.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The Council's response to and recovery from the global Coronavirus pandemic will be an inherent component of ongoing sustainability of local public services.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4. *Staffing*

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all
- Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life
- Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential
- Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

- 8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 – Infographic Illustrating Clackmannanshire’s Initial Coronavirus Response

11.0 Background Papers


11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Stuart Crickmar	Strategic Director Partnership & Performance	

Clackmannanshire Council

Essential Services

During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Education

6,502

food grab bags distributed during summer holidays



674 laptops to access digital learning given to pupils in need

Business & Self Employed Grants

Applications processed

814



Grants awarded:

£7.209 million

Shielding

1,911 calls made to people who were shielding & offers of support made



STRIVE

127 referrals received by STRIVE project providing early stage intervention for individuals and families

Employability



252 people receiving support to access employment and training

Social Media

2,035

messages received on Twitter & Facebook



Ensuring Business Compliance with Guidance & Regulation



421 Compliance Assessments carried out

120 Business Advice requests dealt with

September 2020



Clackmannanshire Council

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd Chlach Mhanann

