
Report to: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2021

Subject: Covid 19 Review and Debrief Update

Report by: Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. Council agreed on 10 September 2020 to conduct a debrief on the Council's response to the global Coronavirus pandemic, and subsequently agreed the process that would be undertaken in October 2020. This report provides an update position relating to the decisions made last year and the anticipated next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Audit Committee notes the update set out in the report and the next steps outlined.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. In October 2020 Council agreed the following:
- 1.i.1. 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
 - 1.i.2. 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.
 - 1.i.3. That subject to operational demands report back to Audit Committee prior to Summer recess 2021 on the key lessons identified from the Councils debrief process.
- 3.2. Since the process outlined above was agreed there have been a number of related and significant developments. Firstly the UK entered a second full lockdown in January 2021 with phasing back of all schools and some services commencing in April 2021 in line with the national recovery strategy and tier system. A full Covid vaccine and community testing programme has also been operational during that time and Council services have been engaged in

various Covid response and recovery activities since January 2021 and in many cases since the first lockdown on the 23rd March 2020.

- 3.3. As a result of the Country moving into a second lockdown the Prime Minister announced in May 2021 that a national public enquiry into the handling of the Covid pandemic would now begin in Spring 2022. The impact of this of course meaning that the learning from the national enquiry referenced in para 3.1 will not be available for some considerable time.
- 3.4. It is however important that we progress our own internal debrief process prior to the findings of the national enquiry being made available and that it is completed within a reasonable timeframe. It is proposed that this is done in two phases following the National Debriefing and Lessons Learned Protocol and guidance in Preparing Scotland: Scottish Exercise Guidance prepared by ScORD. <https://ready.scot/how-scotland-prepares/preparing-scotland-guidance/exercise-guidance/4-post-exercise>. These documents provide a standardised format for debrief of incidents where a multi-agency response has been required.

The following phases and timeframes for debrief are proposed. These take into account our stage of recovery from the second Covid lockdown period between now into Summer 2021.

Phase 1: Forth Valley LRP Debrief. This debrief, already commenced, is focussed on the role of the LRP in leading the command, control and co-ordination and multi-agency leadership of the Covid pandemic in light of its status as an major incident. Interim results are expected to be available in June 2021 and will inform the scope for the second phase of the debrief.

Phase 2: Internal debrief process. This debrief is currently being scoped but will focus on engagement with key services, Elected Members and key partners particularly NHS FV and Public Health. The scope and format of the debrief will follow the national protocol and will review the following key elements of incident management: activation and notification; command, control and coordination; interagency communications; public communications; effectiveness of plans; care for people; environmental impacts; resources and training and recovery activity. Interim results will be available in September 2021 and an update report brought to next Audit Committee.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. No implications at this stage.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report and planned activity will be met within current resources.

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

The paper does not propose a policy change therefore an EQIA or Fairer Scotland Assessment is not required at this stage.

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".

None

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

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Approved by

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