

Covid-19 Update

Cabinet 8th October

- The Covid 2nd wave is here – case levels continue to rise in Harrow but the position remains uncertain due to testing capacity – almost certainly an underestimate
- Today's level in Harrow is 78.4 per 100,000 which alongside much of NW London puts Harrow in the “Red” Category
- Evidence from PHE is that London is in an epidemic phase and community spread is increasing but not to the same extent as NW and NE England
- Currently this situation is not translating into significant hospital admissions or deaths from Covid-19
- Further London-wide restrictions are possible but not imminent

- The Council is operating across a range of services and activities to support measures to promote compliance with Covid-19 restrictions
- This approach includes promoting the key messages of “Hands, Face, Space” and ensuring local people and businesses comply with existing measures to suppress transmission
- The 2nd Wave response is to maximise “living with the virus”- to ensure that public health is protected, that education is enabled and the economy is operating as well as possible
- This is creating Significant demands on the corporate and service response across the Council
- The Council has a multitude of roles to undertake to serve local people during the 2nd Wave

- Continue to run our services in covid-19 secure way – this is constantly reviewed and updated
- Undertake communications - general and targeted to specific groups and communities
- Education and Enforcement Focus for businesses and local people
- Support local aspects of Test and Trace
- Implement quarantine payments

C-19 Response and considerations

External View

Essential Services that may require additional support

Social Care

Reviewing plans to meet surge, in partnership with Health
Lead: Paul Hewitt

Schools

Support on staff fatigue and resilience
Testing of children
Lead: Johanna Morgan

Waste Management

Reviewing plans to cope with reduce workforce because of sickness or self-isolation
Lead: Mike Butler

Economic Recovery

Focus on the immediate support to keep the local economy going and longer-term strategy
Lead: Mark Billington

Homelessness

To support the expected surge in homelessness cases
Lead: Nick Powell

Existing Covid-19 Services that will require additional support

Testing for C-19

Building site capacity
Lead: Julian Wain

PPE

Ensuring sufficient PPE & sustainability of service.
Lead: Julian Wain

HR Support

Sustained home working, collaboration and staff motivation. Extra support to managers.
Lead: Tracey Connage

Enforcement

Enacting new guidance/legislation and joining up Council enforcement services to build resilience
Lead: Paul Walker

Covid Advisors Marshalls

Developing new Team
Lead: Richard Lebrun

Communications & Engagement

Engagement plans for internally and externally
Lead: Alex Dewsnap

New and Enhanced Resident and Business Support

Self-Isolation Benefit

Developing new self-isolation benefits service, including discretionary benefits
Lead: Dawn Calvert

Central Government Business Grants

Developing plans in case required in the event of a London lockdown
Lead: Dawn Calvert

CRM

Joining up C-19 Resident contact data across Services (including T&T system)
Lead: Jonathan Milbourn

Local Track & Trace

Building local capacity to T&T
Leads: Carole Furlong

Contact Cell Hub

Developing Access Harrow support to new services and self-isolation
Lead: Jonathan Milbourn

Community Hub

Provide support to self-isolating residents
Lead: Alex Dewsnap

Member & Staff Flu jobs

Ensuring all are advised and have financial support with getting a flu jab
Lead: Carole Furlong

Reviews

Risk Assessments for Buildings & Services

Review of Risk Assessments considering new guidance; to include entry checks and legal implications
Leads: John Griffiths & Rahim St John??

Governance

Confirm Gold, Silver and Bronze and reporting
Lead: Charlie Stewart

Resourcing Planning

Demand led approach to resourcing. PM immediate need
Lead: Charlie Stewart

Business Continuity Planning

Reviewing plans under new scenario
Lead: Alex Dewsnap

Service & Activity Reviews

Review services & activities to see if they should reduce/stop or not re-start
Lead: Reps

Decant out of the civic campus

Reducing occupancy and ability to work over winter months.
Lead: Rahim St John

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- The 2nd Wave - likely to last for six months minimum
- Likely to get worse not better in respect of cases and potential local lockdown measures
- Emergency response required alongside running our services and existing council priorities
- This will require prioritisation to ensure available capacity can cope with length and complexity of response
- Organisational and staff resilience is a priority

Strategic Priorities

- HSDP Delivery – Next Steps following Wates appointment
- Wider Regeneration work
- Civic Centre potential move to Forward Drive
- Budget/MTFS Work
- Borough Plan – Re-building a Better Harrow
- Preparation for the May 2021 GLA Elections
- Black Lives Matter and Equalities
- Modernisation - IT, HR/OD, MS Dynamics and Service Modernisation – Adults, 3 Conversations
- Climate Emergency
- Health and Social Care Integration

- Council has dealt with the Covid-19 Emergency very well so far
- The challenge has become chronic not acute in the 2nd Wave – this is a long-term issue
- A complex situation involving:
 - Running our services in Covid-19 environment
 - Dealing with a growing emergency
 - Significant extra tasks from Government
 - Many key projects and priorities
- Organisational and personal capacity and resilience is a challenge across the Council
- Will require decisions about priorities and expectations as the 2nd Wave intensifies
- This situation will be kept under constant review and the implications of balancing the competing demands will be shared with Cabinet