

CABINET

27 October 2020

COVID 19 UPDATE AND APPROACH TO CONTINUED USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

Report of the Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/290520	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr O Hemsley, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rutland One Public Estate & Growth, Tourism & Economic Development, Resources (other than Finance)	
Contact Officer(s):	Phillip Horsfield – Deputy Director Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer)	01572 758154 phorsfield@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the present position in Rutland in respect of COVID 19
2. Notes the continued applicability of the Civil Emergency Delegation.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on the 21st April 2020, it was agreed that Cabinet would keep under review the use of Emergency Powers.
- 1.2 At the meeting held on 15th September 2020 Cabinet requested continued reports to provide updates on the present COVID position.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS - COVID POSITION

- 2.1 Rutland has seen a notable rise in confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the previous Cabinet meeting. This has been caused, in part, by the correction of an error in Public Health England's national reporting. With this error corrected, we now have a more accurate understanding of the case numbers in Rutland.

- 2.2 Both the data and the Government are clear that the UK is in the grip of a second wave and Rutland is by no means immune to this. As at 6th October 2020 (the time of writing) we currently have a recorded 140 confirmed cases per 100,000 population. This means it is more important than ever that we follow public health guidance intended to protect our communities and the people we care about.
- 2.3 The Council is continuing to work closely with our regional partners in local government and health. Currently, our case numbers are such that we remain subject to the minimum restrictions that are applicable to the whole of England.
- 2.4 We are continuing to monitor our preparedness for system pressures in areas such as hospital discharge and care home finances, should we see a further increase in demand arising from COVID.
- 2.5 Staff capacity has been considered and information has been sent to managers in order to gain an understating of the resource and skill sets available, to be called on if and when they are needed.
- 2.6 We have received communications from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) querying how prepared RCC is in the event of a second COVID wave. For example, medicine collections etc. can be supported. Community medicine collectors have been contacted and a positive response received.

3 DOWN TO US CAMPAIGN

- 3.1 The Council's Communications Team is continuing to work with neighbouring authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire to deliver our localised COVID-19 information campaign, 'Down to Us'.
- 3.2 The campaign has been heavily active on social media channels over the past three weeks and is now being introduced into traditional media by way of a joint press release to local and regional news outlets.
- 3.3 The combined reach of social media activity across RCC channels has led to more than 50,000 impressions.
- 3.4 The Communications Team is continuing to develop local case studies to be the face of the campaign in Rutland. The Team is also carrying out a gap analysis to identify any areas where RCC's COVID communications can be increased .

4 FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 4.1 The Government have announced a 3 tier approach to attempts to curb the second wave. Attached at Appendix A is a table providing the detail that we have in relation to each of the tiers at the time of writing.
- 4.2 The tiers are Medium, High and Very High. Presently Rutland is in the Medium Category. More details will provided in the meeting to ensure Cabinet has the most up to date position possible.
- 4.3 Presently Rutland County is in Tier 1 – Medium risk

5 CIVIL EMERGENCY DELEGATION

5.1 The Civil Emergency Delegation remains available for use at this time and given the current situation it is suggested that this should remain the case.

5.2 The Log of decisions made using the delegation remains available for Councillors to view and demonstrates the extremely limited use of these powers currently.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 Through the Member briefings all Councillors have been kept abreast of the position in relation to the Pandemic.

7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

7.1 The report provides an update on information regarding the actions taken and the Constitutional position.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

9 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 These are contained in the Report

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None arising from the report.

11 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 An Equality Impact Questionnaire is not required for this report.

12 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

14 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 That Cabinet note the current present position in Rutland regarding COVID 19 and the continued use of the Civil Emergency Delegation.

15 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 There are no background papers for the report.

16 APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Local COVID Alert Levels

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.