

CABINET

16th February 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE AND APPROACH TO CONTINUED USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/170420	
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 A further national lockdown was put in place from 6th January 2021. This was verbally reported to Cabinet at the meeting on 12th January 2021.
- 2.2 The key message is to stay at home as much as possible, and only go out for the following reasons:

- 2.2.1 Shopping for necessities.
- 2.2.2 Going to work or to volunteer or provide charitable services if you can't work from home.
- 2.2.3 Exercising with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, once a day and within your local area.
- 2.2.4 To meet support or people in the childcare bubble (only if you're legally able to form one).
- 2.2.5 To seek medical assistance (like going to your GP surgery or to a pharmacy).
- 2.2.6 To avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (such as domestic violence).
- 2.2.7 To go to school or other education or childcare settings (if eligible).
- 2.3 People who are extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 have been instructed (once again) to shield to protect themselves. This includes anyone classed as clinically extremely vulnerable by their GP, or anyone with certain health conditions which increase their vulnerability to COVID 19.
- 2.4 People in this group should minimise time spent outdoors, only going out for medical appointments or exercise. Wherever possible, other tasks like shopping should be carried out on their behalf, to minimise the risk of a vulnerable person catching coronavirus.
- 2.5 Throughout January and at the time of writing there is significant pressure on the health care system. For this reason the Prime Minister announced that there should be no expectation that restrictions will be changed until 8th March. It was also made clear that any changes from this date will be gradual with priority being given to education provision. Again the changes to the rules in relation to education are expected to be phased in slowly.
- 2.6 At the time of writing cases in Rutland stand at 185 per 100,000 of Population.
- 2.7 Most importantly there continues to be a significant pressure on the health care system. While nationally and in Rutland there has been a fall in the number of cases this will take some significant time to translate in to fewer cases in hospitals including those that serve Rutland.
- 2.8 As in previous reports a small number of decisions continue to be made under emergency powers to enable a timely response. These relate predominantly to business grants, the vaccination centre and more recently the asymptomatic testing centre. The vast majority of decisions are being made through the Council's democratic decision making structures. The Decision Log is regularly made available to all Councillors to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of the emergency powers.
- 2.9 The Council continues working closely with partners to ensure that we support the delivery of the vaccination programme.
- 2.10 In addition to the vaccination centre the Council is now also working to provide an asymptomatic testing centre to enable the provision of targeted testing to people

who cannot work from home during lockdown.

3 CONSULTATION

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

3.2 Parish Council briefings were also activated weekly once again through the period of national lockdown and are now being delivered every 2 weeks.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 These are contained in the Report

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from the report.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

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

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 There are no background papers for the report.

13 APPENDICES

13.1 None

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