

## CABINET

27 July 2021

### 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: n/a	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr O Hemsley, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure	
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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020, it was agreed that Cabinet would keep under review the use of Emergency Powers.
- 1.2 At the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Cabinet requested continued reports to provide updates on the present COVID position.

#### 2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS - COVID POSITION

- 2.1 Further to previous Reports and the Governments Road Map on the 5<sup>th</sup> July the Prime Minister announced the removal of restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- 2.2 Subject to Parliamentary approval on the 12<sup>th</sup> July the following will apply:

- no limits on social contact;
- 1m-plus rule removed (this may remain in medical settings);
- no legal requirements for face coverings (although face coverings will still be advised in hospitals, healthcare settings and enclosed, crowded public spaces);
- nightclubs permitted to reopen;
- capacity caps on businesses will be lifted
- hospitality businesses will no longer be required to provide table service only
- no limits on numbers at weddings and funerals
- no restrictions on communal worship and singing
- no limits on people attending concerts, theatres or sports events
- no legal requirements for COVID certificates for any venue or event

2.3 Guidance on working from home will end and limits on named visitors to care homes will be removed.

2.4 Testing and contact tracing will continue for those with symptoms and people will still be legally required to self-isolate if they test positive.

2.5 At the time of writing further announcements are expected on:

- removing school bubbles and contact-isolation for pupils
- removing the need for fully-vaccinated people to self-isolate on return from "amber list" countries.

2.6 At the time of writing cases in Rutland stand at 188 per 100,000 of Population. There has been a significant impact on the number of cases in the County from within School settings. It should be noted that the national picture is of a significant increase in the number of cases with a doubling of positive cases every 9 days at the time of writing.

2.7 Councillors will see that there have been no decisions using the Emergency Powers in relation to the Pandemic since April of this year. At the time of writing this Report, the Council is finalising its policy on the use of some of its Discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant (for businesses) and this will be recorded on the decision log in due course.

2.8 The Council continues working closely with partners to ensure that we support the delivery of the vaccination programme. Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> July the County was pleased to have vaccinated 88% of adults with the first dose of the vaccine and 69% of adults have had the second dose.

2.9 While it would be possible to end the use of the emergency delegation it is not recommended at this stage given the numbers and the fact that Government support through schemes such as furlough and others has not come to an end.

- 2.10 The Council is also anticipating that there may be amendments required to the Scheme of Delegation resulting from legislation on this issue as it has been suggested that there will be additional local powers to contain outbreaks. This will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet or Council as appropriate.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Councillors continue to be updated through the Member briefing.

### **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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