

Committee: **Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**
 Date of meeting: **23rd February 2020**
 Report Subject: **Blaenau Gwent Covid 19 Recovery Plan**
 Portfolio Holder: **Nigel Daniels, Leader of the Council, Executive Member Corporate Services**
 Report Submitted by: **Richard Crook, Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	Gold Recovery Group	14.02.22			23/02/22	02/03/22		Officer Recovery Group

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 To set out and seek the views of the Scrutiny committee on the approach to be adopted to monitor the Recovery from the Covid 19 Pandemic across Council Services and the wider community.

2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 Members will be aware that the approach to Emergency Planning adopted by the Council and across the Public Sector is via two stages.
 - 2.2 The first stage is response which the Council has been actively working within throughout the Covid 19 pandemic.
 - 2.3 The second stage is recovery. This approach is predicated on there being a clear point in a given situation where the emergency is effectively over and the recovery phase can be identified.
 - 2.4 We are all aware that, in relation to Covid 19, the Council has had to operate using a twin track approach with recovery running, at times, in parallel with response.
 - 2.5 This report sets out the approach that has been adopted and the high level measures which will be used to assess when services and the wider community have recovered to the position they were prior to the lockdown in 2020.
 - 2.6 The intention is not to prepare a specific recovery plan, but to ensure that the recovery actions are embedded into the Councils governance arrangements using the Business Planning and Performance Management processes, whilst providing a set of measures which can be used to measure recovery at a strategic level.

- 2.7 At the outset of the pandemic, the Council undertook a Community assessment which identified the parts of the Community most likely to be impacted by the pandemic and this has provided the context to the recovery themes covering:
- Economy;
 - Learners;
 - Social Services; and
 - Workforce.
- 2.8 The contribution of each of the recovery themes to the Community assessment is set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.9 The recovery themes have been reported to their respective Scrutiny Committees and through to the Executive and this reports pulls the reports and the measures contained in the reports into a single report to give a one council perspective for members.
- 2.10 In terms of the themes the following key measures have been identified which will provide a strategic overview to progress through scrutiny to the Executive on a bi annual basis. These measures have been included in a series of infographics which can be found at appendix 2:

Economy

- Unemployment count as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16+
- Town centre Footfall
- Gross Weekly Pay – All full time Workers

Workforce (please note, the infographic only contains information up to quarter 2)

- Absence – average days lost including COVID

Social Services

- Workforce Recruitment and Retention – numbers of staff leaving and starting within the Department
- Carers support and provision - total number of contacts to statutory services by adult carers or professionals contacting the service on their behalf received during the year and the number of adults receiving respite care
- Developing, piloting or scaling up/out of new models of service that improve good outcomes for people – qualitative information to be provided
- Market sustainability – number of Adults in residential and nursing placements
- Accessing the community – number of people who access Day Services and number of people whose needs have been met through the provision of Information, Advice and Assistance

- Improving Health and Wellbeing – number of referrals received by Adult Social Services
- Number of referrals received by Children’s Services both prevention and statutory
- Number of Children on Child Protection register
- Number of Children on Care and Support Plan
- Number of Children Looked After
- Staff: % vacant positions

Learners

- Applications
 - Nursery
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- Attendance
 - Primary
 - Secondary

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 Option 1 (preferred Option) – To recommend to Executive Committee that the approach set out to manage recovery from the Covid 19 Pandemic across Council Services and the wider community is taken forward.
- 3.2 Option 2 – For Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee to suggest amendment to the approach, including other measures to be included, before recommending to the Executive Committee.

4. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

- 4.1 The recovery plans, as set out by the Council, will play a key role in supporting the objectives of the Corporate Plan and the Blaenau Gwent Well-Being Plan whilst ensuring the Council continues to meet statutory responsibilities.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

There are no direct financial implications for either option

5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

The report sets out measures to monitor the recovery process and the risk is that the Council is not sighted on the process of recovery and is unable to take corrective action if required to support effective recovery. This will be mitigated by monitoring through the Business Planning process and in bi annual reporting through the democratic process.

5.3 **Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with the report

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no direct implications associated with this report, however, implications for the workforce is set out as part of the workforce recovery theme.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The range of measures to be monitored across each of the themes is set out in appendix 1

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

The outcome for the public will be the positive impact on the Community as set out in the community assessment.

The infographics provide a visual representation of the recovery information in an easy read format.

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken to understand the key impacts of COVID-19 and consider the opportunities to build resilience and mitigate inequalities. Information has been obtained from various on internal and external data and reports (for example, Welsh Government's Locked Out Report...), engagement with communities and intelligence from our service delivery.

Community impact assessments were undertaken for the following population groups:

- Young people aged 14-25 years;
- Young families with children aged 8 years and under;
- People with learning disabilities
- Armed forces community;
- Older people – 'New vulnerable' people aged 65+ years (20% of Blaenau Gwent population), including those deemed as being financially stretched;
- Older people – Those aged 50+ in need of social care support

6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

The recovery process will have a range of timescales with certain measures achieving a pre pandemic level quickly whilst others will have a longer timescale, however, the long term implications of the impacts on the community will be tracked over time.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

The tracking of the progress in recovering to pre pandemic levels will allow early corrective actions which will allow preventative measures to be implemented.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The report covers actions delivered by the Council but will be undertaken in conjunction with a range of partners and collaborations across the themes.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The Council has identified lead officers for each of the recovery themes and all have been involved in the development of the recovery plans.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The recovery process has produced a different way of working across the Council services and the way the council operates as well as the community with a reduction of travel contributing to carbon reductions.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***

As this is not a strategic decision for the Council, there is no requirement to complete a Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment.

6.9b. ***Equality Impact Assessment***

The recovery themes should have no negative impacts on the protected characteristics. The community assessment, used to establish the response for the community considered the equalities agenda and any potential negative impacts.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The recovery themes will be monitored via the Council's business planning processes and reported bi-annually to Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Committee.

Progress updates with regards to specific service areas will be provided to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Recovery Plans*
- *Appendix 2 - Infographics*