

FOLLOW-UP: MATTERS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM THE LAST MEETING

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REASON FOR REPORT

To follow-up any clarifications and information requests agreed by the Committee undertaking their role scrutinising the decisions and reports from the last Cabinet meeting. These matters are for noting only and not for call-in. If a particular Member wishes for further clarification on the information provided below, this will be for the Committee to determine.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

That the Committee note the information provided.

CABINET – 21 MAY 2020

The Committee gave consideration to the reports and the decisions made by Cabinet at this meeting and sought further information or clarifications in the reports as set out below. The responses below are provided below by Council officers and, given the timely nature, these were also sent in advance to Committee Members on 8 June 2020:

Item 5: Hillingdon's Response to Coronavirus

Committee Clarification	Officer response
Can Members have a breakdown of the number of deaths in care homes, hospitals and community settings. (suggest use time period from when started recording this to say 26 May 2020)	The data including the weekly breakdown and comparisons to national and London are available here .
Is there a Council position on recommendation to schools whether to open on 1 June? Or is it down to each individual school?	The decision to extend the phased opening of schools is a decision for each school to make, based on the individual site and staff resources risk assessments undertaken by the school.
What proportion of the special Government Grant to local authorities for social care has been given to providers? It says that a lump sum has been provided to such providers equivalent to	At the end of March all bed based and homecare providers were paid a lump sum based on 10% of their estimated turnover with the Council over the 3 month period Apr-June 2020. These lump sum payments totalled £1.87m. In addition the Council has been providing homes with free PPE - the cost of Social Care PPE was £534k in April and this

<p>10% of their business turnover. Is that annual turnover?</p> <p>And have any providers had difficulties during this time?</p>	<p>support is continuing. The Council is also helping cashflow homes by paying in advance on plan rather than in arrears.</p> <p>All these costs are being funded from the £6.86m grant paid to the Council in late March as part of the initial £1.6bn funding package from Government.</p>
<p>How many EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plans) for Children with SEND have been produced during this time and what is the current backlog, if any?</p>	<p>As statutory functions were not relaxed at the beginning of the pandemic, officers continued to process Education, Health and Care needs assessments (EHCNA), which resulted in 84 EHCPs being finalised between the period of March-May 2020. Officers are still continuing to process the backlog of Education Health and Care needs assessments and reassessments. In November 2019 this number was 256 and at present is 81.</p>
<p>Rough Sleeping - after all the work that has been done to support rough sleepers, how long will the provision at Olympic House and other sites continue?</p>	<p>Like all Local Authorities the Council is working closely with rough sleepers and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to support them to move on from emergency housing, to suitable, alternative settled accommodation. This will be a phased process and emergency accommodation will remain available, in line with government guidance.</p>
<p>The temporary £25 bulky waste collection fee, is that temporary during the pandemic?</p>	<p>The temporary charge of £25 was introduced on the 20/04. The Council stated on the website that this will be reviewed in 2 months.</p>
<p>The £150 reduction in Council Tax liability for all working age claimants in receipt of CTRS. Is this temporary for the pandemic only?</p>	<p>The £150 reduction in Council Tax liability for CTRS cases is for 2020/21 only. It covers existing CTRS claimants and any new claimants during 2020/21.</p>
<p>13 schools are closed at the moment, even to vulnerable children and critical workers - what is the reason for this?</p>	<p>The decision to open or close the school is made by the Governing Body of the school. The decision is based on the individual risk assessment undertaken by each school.</p>
<p>Will the Council be providing schools with advice on physical changes to the layout of schools when they start to re-open?</p>	<p>The decision to extend the phased opening of schools is a decision for each school to make, based on individual site and staff resources risk assessments. Local Authority officers have been in regular contact with Head Teachers to share the guidance from the Department for Education to support schools to prepare for extended opening arrangements.</p>

Will there be any reassurances from Council when we believe schools are ready to be re-opened safely?	The decision to extend the phased opening of schools is a decision for each school to make, based on individual site and staff resources risk assessments.
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Item 6: Carers' Strategy

Committee Question	Officer response
The online self-referral form was mentioned as long winded and repetitive. Has there been any thought for feedback on this?	The council has been working with Hillingdon Carers to improve accessibility of the self-assessment. This is part of a broader project that is due for delivery in 2021.
The Council works with schools to make them aware of young carers. Can (or does) the Council when it comes across a young carer make their school aware of that responsibility they have?	If children are identified as Young carers during the assessment and planning process, all relevant/participant agencies/professionals (including schools) are informed.