

EE3. Coronavirus Update

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the Coronavirus pandemic. In the Forth Valley area there had been 802 confirmed cases and 156 deaths. The Council had contributed support in a number of key areas, including:-

- care for people
- transport
- death management
- testing
- business support
- PPE
- recovery
- communications

The report also provided detail on the actions which had been taken by each of the Council's Services, the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Falkirk Community Trust.

In terms of next steps the report advised that work would continue on specific response activities. Continued support for those in communities who had been made vulnerable, or more vulnerable, by the outbreak would be critical to support their wellbeing and, as far as possible, keep them safe from the virus. The voluntary sector contribution, together with that flowing from community activation generally was described as little short of phenomenal. Strong existing partnerships allowed the response category to be effectively organised and activated early in the intervention programme. The Council, along with other Category 1 responders, required frequently to report into the MACC to ensure that a national overview was maintained and mutual aid requirements identified and met. New response areas of activity would emerge and be absorbed into the existing structures. Two ongoing areas related to testing and mass vaccination.

Decision

The Emergency Executive, in addition to noting the contents of the report, requested that reports covering the issues outlined below were presented to the Emergency Executive or, if unavailable until after the Summer recess, the Executive or Council as soon as the relevant information was available in particular guidance from Scottish Government to allow the reports to be prepared:-

- 1. Vision**
the vision and aspirations of the Council as an organisation and for our communities in order that we can establish clear priorities in the work on recovery and renewal and should be set in the context of existing Council commitments to tackling poverty and wider inequalities and supporting economic development;
- 2. Economic Development**
the work planned by the Council and partners to support economic recovery and renewal;
- 3. Empowered Communities**
how the work of the Support for People team could be captured, embedded and sustained in communities and more broadly how our communities could be engaged with and supported by the Council and third sector partners;
- 4. Finance**
on the implications of the situation on the Council's financial position, the implications for agreed budget savings and a refreshed medium term financial plan;
- 5. Employees**
the new ways of working that could be carried forward beyond the end of the lockdown period, measures to ensure a safe working environment with social distancing for all our employee groups, and support for staff wellbeing particularly in the transition period where staff were returning to workplaces;
- 6. Strategic Property Review**
consideration of SPR to take account of new models of service delivery that may emerge;
- 7. Service Recovery plans**
a recovery plan for each service with, in particular:-
 - (a) a scheme for schools to return to operation and a recovery plan for education, and
 - (b) at a later stage, lessons learned within the Health and Social Care Partnership on where integration worked well and how integration could be further developed;
- 8. Falkirk Community Trust**
a recovery plan for the Trust and any implications for the future.

The Emergency Executive also noted that these reports would in turn feed into the refreshed Falkirk Plan, Corporate Plan and Business Plan which would be considered by the full Council later in the year.