

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting	25 June 2020
Subject:	COVID 19 – Response		
Report of:	Chief Executive	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Leader of the Council		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The objective of this report, and the accompanying presentation to the Cabinet, is to provide an overview of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that Cabinet Members are fully informed on the impacts and mitigations, and engaged in discussions on management and potential changes to affected services.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- (i) Note the Council's ongoing and developing response to COVID-19.
- (ii) Note the ongoing and emerging financial implications of the response, including the impact on Council income, in advance of a review of the Council's budget for the current financial year (discussed in the presentation and elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda).

Reasons for the Recommendations:

This report aims to outline the impact of COVID-19 on existing services and their current and future operations, along with the financial implications of these impacts and potential changes. Along with the accompanying presentation it aims to ensure Cabinet Member visibility and continued engagement in response, recovery, and future financial planning.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue costs arising from this report if the recommendations are approved. Any specific financial implications from items herein will be reviewed and approved via existing governance arrangements.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital costs arising from this report if the recommendations are approved. Any specific financial implications from items herein will be reviewed and approved via existing governance arrangements.

Implications of the Proposals:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): As outlined in the report
Legal Implications: As outlined in the report
Equality Implications: Any equality implications will be formally recorded by the contract manager

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The Council has focused on protection of the most vulnerable members of Sefton's communities throughout the response phase, and will do so throughout recovery
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This will remain a core objective throughout recovery planning
Commission, broker and provide core services: The Council's response has focused on continued delivery of core services for all residents despite circumstances
Place – leadership and influencer: The Council will ensure that through these proposals that it is acting in the best interests of Sefton and its residents.
Drivers of change and reform: The Council will review opportunities for change throughout the recovery phase where they support achievement of the Council's core purpose
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Economic resilience and recovery have been integral to the response, and will be critical to the Council's recovery plans
Greater income for social investment: N/A

Cleaner Greener: The Council has remained, and will remain, focused on the borough's environment and on sustaining momentum with its strategy for climate emergency.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services has been consulted any comments have been incorporated within the report. (FD 6046/20)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated within the report. (LD4229/20)

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiration of the call-in period.

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Appendices:

N/A

Background Papers:

N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 This report accompanies the presentation to be provided to the Cabinet, intending to provide an overview of the implications of COVID-19 on Council operations, including information on what has been delivered and actions that remain in progress. This presentation will also inform consideration of elements of recovery planning.
- 1.2 Although much has been learned from emergency planning processes, the nature of this pandemic has meant that the response phase is much longer than in the case of response to a single event. In many areas the Council (like many organisations and other local authorities across the UK) therefore remains in the response phase.
- 1.3 Further detail on all aspects of the report will be provided within the presentation to Cabinet.

2.0 Response Structures

- 2.1 In the first stages of response, the Council established a Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), chaired by the Chief Executive and comprising the Executive Leadership Team, key specialists, representatives from each cell and Council service area, and partner organisations such as the police and CCG.
- 2.2 The SCG is supported by a Tactical Coordination Group (TCG), comprising similar representation with greater focus and emphasis on the operational and tactical aspects of response. The TCG reports to each SCG on key updates, decision items and matters for escalation.
- 2.3 The Council has established a Cell structure to enable implementation of response, and which will support recovery planning. Each is led by a Head of Service or similar to ensure strategic and technical leadership on key issues. These governance arrangements are outlined in the appendix, and terms of reference and membership for each cell are available on request.
- 2.4 These structures provide the Council's coordination in alignment with the Merseyside Local Resilience Forum (MRF), which has implemented established and well-rehearsed emergency planning governance arrangements to coordinate a multi-agency response, although these have evolved over the course of the response phase. The MRF has established a Strategic Coordinating Group (MRF SCG) and Tactical Coordinating Group (MRF TCG), both of which comprise officer representation from the Council.
- 2.5 Furthermore, a series of MRF cells have also been established, with senior officer representatives on each. The regional cell for Test and Trace is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive. Adult social care and elements of the local Public Health response have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, particularly in relation to the impact on care homes, so there has been additional NHS and DASS governance reporting into the MRF on these areas.
- 2.6 As work has commenced on recovery planning, a Strategic Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG) has also been established, of which the Council's Chief Executive is a member. Recovery planning is also underway and being coordinated via the

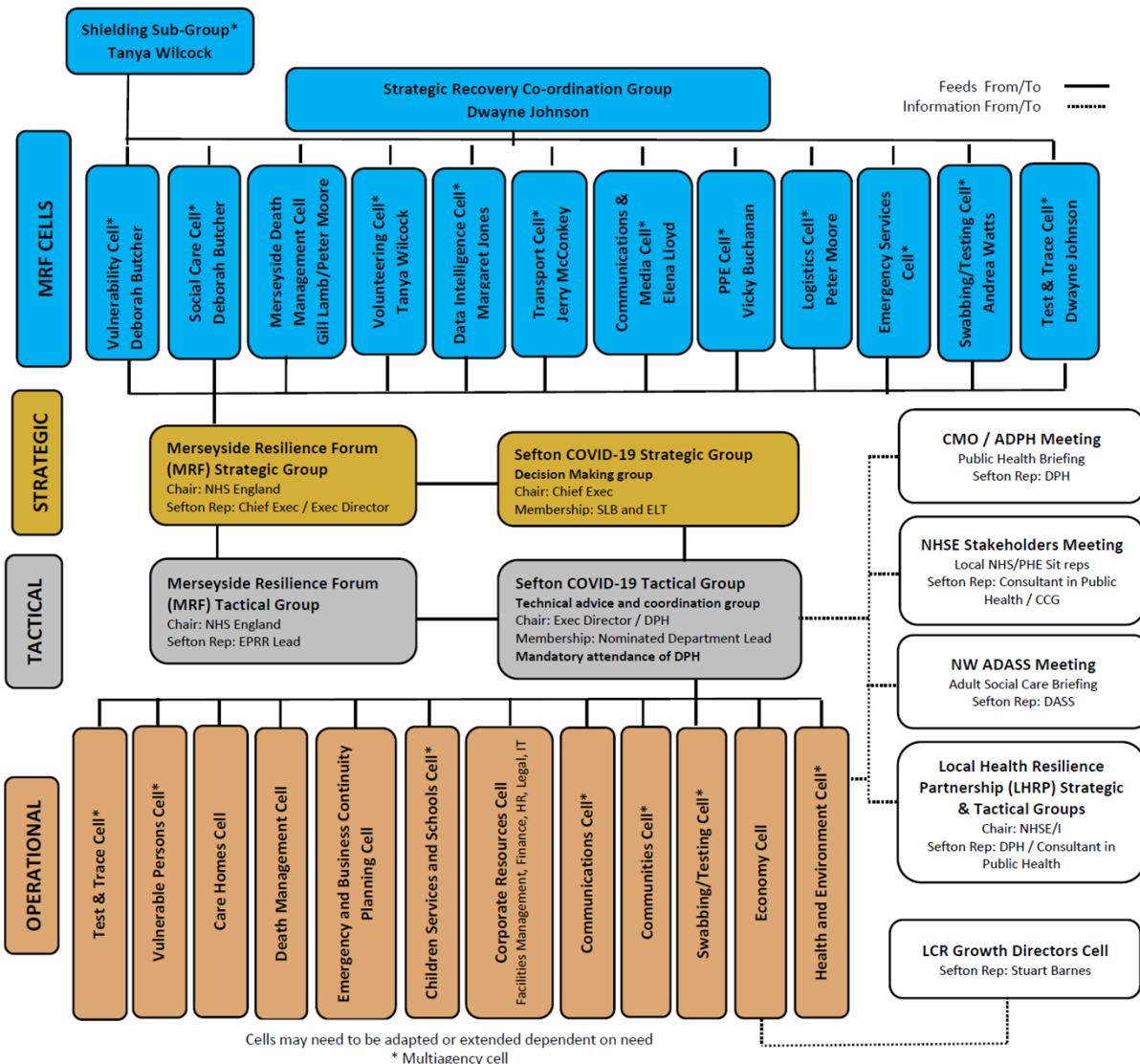
Council's and MRF's cell structures, with most aspects of recovery planning to be developed and implemented at the most local possible level.

- 2.7 The Council receives, reviews and distributes daily updates from HM Government and various departments, including from the daily press conferences, to ensure immediate interpretation of national and regional guidance to inform and support response.

Appendix – Governance Arrangements

Sefton COVID-19 Governance Arrangements v1.12

16/06/2020



Cells may need to be adapted or extended dependent on need
* Multiagency cell

Test & Trace Cell	Vulnerable Persons Cell	Care Home Cell	Death Management Cell	Emergency and Business Continuity Planning Cell	Children's Services and Schools Cell	Corporate Resources Cell (Facilities Management, Finance, HR, Legal, IT)	Comms Cell	Communities Cell	Economy Cell	Health and Environment Cell	Swabbing/Testing Cell
Chair: Dwayne Johnson Deputy: Andrea Watts	Chair: Deborah Butcher Deputy: Alisa Nile; Andy McDonald Business Support: Kate Edgar	Chair: Ellie Moulton Deputy: Neil Watson	Chair: Peter Moore Deputy: Gill Lamb Business Support: Jennifer Warner	Chair: Jill Dorrity (Business Continuity); Deputy: Gill Lamb (Emergency Planning)	Chair: Tricia Davies Deputy: Laura Knights Business Support: Joe Flatman	Chair: David McCullough Deputy: Mark Chambers Business Support: Joshua Cross	Chair: Jan McMahan Deputy: Elena Lloyd Business Support: Bridie Finnan	Chair: Tanya Wilcock Deputy: Chris White; Jacquie Finlay Business Support: Joanne Doyle	Chair: Stuart Barnes Deputy: Peter Moore Vice Deputy: Mike Mullen Business Support: Gary Lewis	Chair: Margaret Jones Deputy: Charlotte Smith Business Support: Nicky Owen	Chair: Jan McMahan Deputy: Debbie Fairclough Business Support: Annette McGarrigle