
Restart, Recover, Renew: Next Steps For Cardiff During The Covid-19 Crisis

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the planned approach to restarting council services as national lockdown measures are eased.

Structure of the Papers

2. To facilitate the scrutiny the following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A – Cabinet report titled:

Restart, Recover, Renew: next steps for Cardiff during the Covid-19 crisis

There are two appendices to this Cabinet report:

Appendix 1: Restarting Council Services

Appendix 2: A Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Trade Unions.

Scope of the Scrutiny

3. Members will be able to test the Council's response to delivering services during the pandemic, specifically examining:
 - a. the Restart, Recover, Renew strategy outlined in the report;
 - b. the approach each service is taking to restarting council services as detailed in **Appendix 1**
 - c. the procurement strategy to ensure supplies of PPE
 - d. the Memorandum of Understanding' between the Council and Trade Unions attached at **Appendix 2**;

- e. the establishment of a Cabinet led 'Recovery Task-force' to oversee the Council's response to the economic crisis.

Background

4. The COVID-19 Scrutiny Panel was established following a change to Council governance arrangements agreed by full Council on 21 May 2020. Its Terms of Reference request that a new measured and proportionate scrutiny, tailored to meet the emergency situation, should consider all Cabinet decision making reports.
5. The Panel will meet remotely, be recorded and made available to the public. In advance of this meeting all scrutiny committee members have been e-mailed, their comments/enquiries collated by theme and passed to Panel members to follow up, in line with the Terms of Reference.
6. The Panel's deliberations and recommendations will be formally relayed to the Cabinet in time to inform decision taking at its meeting on 11 June 202.

Issues identified in the Cabinet Report

7. The pandemic has necessitated the Council transitioning to an essential service model informed by the following key principles:
 - Preventing the spread of infection
 - Ensuring the health and safety of staff, service users and citizens
 - Prioritising key frontline services and support for vulnerable people
8. The Cabinet report attached at **Appendix A** sets out the critical challenges associated with restarting or repurposing council services to function effectively, sustainably and safely, and establishes the principles and planning assumptions for the restart of services.
9. A comprehensive '**Restart: Operational Plan**' is attached as **Appendix 1** to **Appendix A**. In this Plan Members will find greater detail of how each Service Area has dealt with **lockdown**, the **issues and challenges** each will face in restarting services, and the **next steps** they will take in recovery. Given the rapidly moving situation, this Restart Plan will be a 'live' document that will need to be updated as UK/Welsh Government and public health guidance changes.
10. The report states the core principles established to guide the Council's response:
 - Ensuring the resilience of services critical to our Covid-19 response;

- Doing all we can to protect our most vulnerable citizens and our staff, and;
 - Stopping the spread of the virus.
11. The Council is operating within a national framework that makes clear *‘the environment within which the Council will be delivering services, and within which the city economy must operate, will for the foreseeable future involve mandatory social distancing alongside a clear direction to work from home, where possible; the phased ‘restart’ of wide range of public services and of the economy; and continued proactive work to prevent the further spread of the virus whilst also planning for potential future ‘peaks.’*
12. The report indicates that the Cabinet is clear the administration’s Capital Ambition of building a fairer, greener more prosperous city is more important now than ever. It states that, together with City partners, the Council will:
- Lead a capital city that will be at the forefront of a green and inclusive economic recovery in Wales.
 - Tackle the existing economic and health inequalities that will have been exacerbated by both the public health and economic crises.
 - Meet the climate emergency through accelerating the decarbonisation of city infrastructures and public services.
 - Maintain the momentum in public service innovation, through the use of digital technologies, cross-Council integration and cross-city partnership working.
13. To achieve this the Cabinet has set out a three-stage approach to leading Cardiff’s response to the easing of lockdown and to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis:
- Restart:** Restarting and adapting a wide range of council services in the context of extended stringent social distancing requirements, in tandem with the evolution of national advice.
- Recover:** Implementing a strategic response to help the city recover from the immediate crisis while adapting to an extended period of social distancing.

Renew: Working closely with city partners, staff and citizens to set out the future we want for Cardiff post-crisis and how, together, we will make it happen.

14. The report addresses all of the immediate strategic issues that 'Restart, Recover Renew' will entail. For quick reference on specific issues Members are guided to the following points:

Issue	Points
Restart of Services	30-38
Re-opening Schools	39-43
Service Adaptations & Innovation	44-50
Test, Track, Protect: Local Delivery	51-54
Cardiff's Recovery	55-61
Renewal	62-66
Workforce Implications	67
Policy & Budgetary Frameworks	68-71

15. **Appendix 2** to Appendix A, outlines the Council and the Trade Unions' joint commitment to ensuring that the Council continues to respond effectively to the pandemic but with an overriding interest in the health and well-being of our staff and local communities. A jointly agreed Memorandum of Understanding, underpins partnership working with the Trade Unions

Proposed Recommendations to Cabinet

16. Cabinet is recommended to:
- Approve the Restart, Recover, Renew strategy;
 - Note the approach to restarting council services outlined in Appendix 1 and delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to restart services in accordance with changing UK Government, Welsh Government and public health guidance.
 - Authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance, and the Section 151

Officer, to allocate resources, within the budgetary framework, to support the Council's response to the ongoing pandemic and economic crisis;

- Note the procurement strategy to ensure a twelve week supply of PPE and to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Director of Social Services to take necessary steps to secure supplies within the budgetary framework;
- Approve the 'Covid-19 Response - Memorandum of Understanding' between the Council and Trade Unions attached as Appendix 2;
- Note the establishment of a 'Recovery Task-force' under the leadership of the Cabinet to oversee the Council's response to the economic crisis.

Way Forward

17. The scrutiny will be supported by the Leader, Councillor Huw Thomas, and the Chief Executive, Paul Orders. Also available for this item will be: Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources; Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People & Communities; Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development; Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport & Environment; Nick Batchelor, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning; and Gareth Newell, Head of Performance & Partnerships. The witness panel will take questions from Members of the COVID-19 Scrutiny Panel, representing the Members of all five Cardiff Council Scrutiny Committees.

Legal Implications

18. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural

requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

19. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The Panel is recommended to:

- a. Note Cardiff Council's next steps proposals to Restart, Recover, and Renew and the recommendations to Cabinet.
- b. Consider whether it wishes to convey any comments, observations or concerns to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 11 June 2020.

DAVINA FIORE

Director, Governance & Legal Services

5 June 2020