

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, 26 January 2021**

**6.00 pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/97691853318?pwd=U1ZHOEJrc1NHMkZjT0pTZTJaYnZLQT09>

- Membership: Councillors Jane Loffhagen (Chair), Naomi Tweddle (Vice-Chair), Bill Bilton, Sue Burke, Liz Bushell, Jackie Kirk, Helena Mair, Lucinda Preston, Hilton Spratt, Edmund Strengiel and Bill Mara
- Substitute member(s): Councillor(s) Kathleen Brothwell and Gary Hewson
- Officers attending: Graham Watts, Justin Brown

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### A G E N D A

Please click this URL to join.

<https://zoom.us/j/97691853318?pwd=U1ZHOEJrc1NHMkZjT0pTZTJaYnZLQT09>

Passcode: 241724

Or call: 0330 088 5830

ID: 976 9185 3318

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#### SECTION A

Page(s)

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 16 December 2020 3 - 6
2. Declarations of Interest

Please note that, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, when declaring interests members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest, and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal and/or pecuniary.

3. Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic
  - 1) To understand the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on businesses, identifying support already provided, whether there are any gaps and how the City Council can provide additional support.
  - 2) To understand the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on individuals from the perspective of jobs and employment and whether the City Council can provide additional support.

4. Justin Brown - Assistant Director for Growth (Lincolnshire County Council) **7 - 8**
5. Work Programme 2020/2021 **9 - 12**

- Present:** Councillor Jane Loffhagen (*in the Chair*)
- Councillors:** Naomi Tweddle, Bill Bilton, Alan Briggs, Sue Burke, Liz Bushell, Jackie Kirk, Helena Mair, Lucinda Preston and Hilton Spratt
- Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Christopher Reid, Simon Walters and Angela Andrews

**19. Confirmation of Minutes - 16 November 2020**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 be confirmed.

**20. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**21. Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Jane Loffhagen, Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee opened the meeting and provided the committee with a brief introduction of the topic for review which was the impact on businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chair explained that the purpose of the review was to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and how it had affected businesses, whilst also identifying support already being provided and whether there were any gaps of which the City of Lincoln Council could provide further support. Not only would the review look at businesses, it would also look at how the pandemic had affected individuals from the perspective of jobs and employment.

She introduced Derek Ward, Director of Public Health at the Lincolnshire County Council who had been invited to provide a background on how the city of Lincoln was coping with Covid-19 since Lincoln had been put into Tier 3.

**22. Derek Ward - Director of Public Health (Lincolnshire County Council) (Verbal Report)**

Derek Ward, Director of Public Health briefly explained the current situation in the City with regards to Covid-19 including the current testing regime, he explained the following:

- The rates peaked in mid-November in Lincolnshire and lockdown had helped bring the peak down. It was starting to flatten out throughout the County but this needed to continue in order for it to keep reducing.
- It was mainly outbreaks in care homes, county hospital and the prison that were causing the rates to rocket.
- Over the past month it was identified that students weren't the reason for the increase of cases in Lincoln and they had been doing a great job in getting

tested. The University were also carrying out asymptomatic tests on students before they returned home.

- There were 3 core ways to help lower the spread of the virus:
  - Vaccines
  - Improving the testing system
  - Test and Trace

Derek welcomed any questions or comments from the committee.

Question: Since the vaccine had been rolled out, how many Lincoln residents have had the virus?

Response: The vaccine programme was controlled by the NHS so only they could provide the statistics. The vaccine in general was going well, the Pfizer vaccine which was the current vaccine in circulation had to be frozen at -70C before being used. It would also shortly be rolled out in care homes but officers were waiting for further information on that.

Question: Was the hospital coping with the amount of cases they were receiving?

Response: The hospital had struggled. A test had to be taken on entry and a few days after an individual had been admitted. The hospital didn't discharge people from the hospital to a care home and there were discharge for patients whilst they were waiting for test results. A third of people with the virus had showed no symptoms, so that was the main issue that needed to be tackled.

Question: Were the staff at Care Homes trained to deal with outbreaks?

Response: Staff had been on prevention training for the past couple of years originally to deal with flu outbreaks. They were fully kitted in PPE and had access to testing, staff were tested every week and residents were tested every 28 days but soon that would become a regular occurrence.

Question: In relation to the government making changes to the Test and Trace, how would it help?

Response: Not all the details about this had been received yet so unfortunately an update couldn't be given.

Question: What was the lateral flow test?

Response: There were 3 types of test, two that would tell you if you tested positive and one antibody test. The PCR test which was the one carried out at Lincolnshire Showground and at the University takes 24-72 hours to show a result. The Lateral Flow test was similar to a pregnancy test, if the test was positive, two lines would show and it would take approximately 20-25 minutes to get a result. This test in particular wasn't very successful in giving real positives and could pick up 3 of every 4 but it could miss one and has to be carried out by somebody who was trained. In order to minimise the risk, the test could be carried out over a number of days to find a pattern however people who were told they got a negative result that were asked to have another test didn't want to. There was plenty of supply in order to be able to carry out multiple tests on the same person.

Question: Which test was the best test to give an accurate reading?

Response: The PCR was the gold standard test and gave a more accurate reading than the lateral test. The lateral test was good at giving a negative result but not good at giving positive results.

Question: With regards to new testing units in schools, what support would be provided?

Response: A webinar took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December with the national government but more information would be received shortly.

How was the virus spreading in the city of Lincoln?

Response: Care homes were testing people regularly and dealing with outbreaks fantastically however a lot of the time outbreaks were investigated after they had happened rather than before. The number of cases was decreasing however there were still outbreaks. Asymptomatic transmission was the main reason for the spread of the virus, so the same message has been strongly advised to everyone that they should:

- Wash their hands
- Wear a face covering
- Keep a 2m distance
- If you felt any kind of symptoms, no matter how mild, self-isolate and get a test.

Question: Were people in deprived areas who were self-isolating able to access Vitamin D supplements during the winter months?

Response: the guidelines did state that vitamin D should be taken by everyone.

The Chair thanked Derek for attending the meeting and expressed her appreciation for the work that was being undertaken throughout the pandemic by himself, his staff as well the joint partnership working with the City of Lincoln Council.

### **23. Supporting Business - Conclusions and Next Steps (Verbal Report)**

After liaising with Justin Brown, Assistant Director for Growth at the Lincolnshire County Council, he agreed to attend the meeting in January to provide an update on how Covid-19 has affected growth and economy.

### **24. Supporting Individuals - Next Steps (Verbal Report)**

The committee were given the opportunity to suggest anyone that they felt would be able to provide effective information for evidence gathering in the next stage of the review, these were:

- Lynsey Collinson and Kate Edgar (Development Plus) – February 2021
- Graham Metcalfe (DWP) – February 2021

### **25. Work Programme 2020/21**

N/A

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# ANNUAL SUMMARY 2020

## PROVIDING EMERGENCY FUNDING TO BUSINESSES



**£19,499** grants

have been provided to businesses totalling nearly **£277m** via the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.



**1,067** businesses

have benefitted from grants totalling **£9.68m** through the Discretionary Grant Fund.

## ADVISING BUSINESSES AND HELPING THEM ADAPT TO THE FUTURE



Information about changes to businesses are put on our website within **24 hours** of them being announced.



**53,104** unique users

have visited the Growth Hub website since March 2020.



**2,617** businesses

Since April 2020, the Growth Hub and its partners have supported and assisted **2,617** businesses.



**26** online events

have been delivered with a range of topics - from selling online, to redundancy support to tools to support working from home.

## TACKLING THE CHALLENGES THAT HAVE FACED OUR WORKFORCE



We have briefed all partners on the support that is available to help individuals to retrain and the support that is available to businesses who are restructuring.

**All of this information is in one single place that is accessible.**



**£8million**

of grant funding has been allocated to help fund our post-16 education providers to invest in modern facilities.

## ADAPTING FUNDING TO MEET NEW CIRCUMSTANCES



**£25.8million**

has been attracted from the government to invest in economic growth.



**£0.730million**

has been attracted from the Kickstart grants and these were all allocated to businesses within **24 hours** of the programme opening.

## KEEPING STAKEHOLDERS UP TO DATE WITH CHANGES



We have attended key meetings explaining the impact of the virus and produced weekly economic assessments to advise the Local Resilience Forum and government officials.



We have positioned the *Quarterly Economic Survey* as a way of checking business sentiment, and have increased the number of businesses completing the survey significantly.

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Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Timetable for 2020/21**29 September 2020**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Scrutiny Review – Integrated Communities – Overview	Democratic Team Leader and Elections Manager	Scrutiny Review
Befriending Scheme - Overview	Neighbourhood Manager	Update
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**20 October 2020**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Scoping Document	Graham Watts	Scrutiny Review
Scrutiny Review — Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Evidence Gathering	Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Our People and Resources  Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth  Jo Walker, Assistant Director, Growth  Martin Walmsley, Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service	Evidence Gathering
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**16 November 2020**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Objectives	Graham Watts	Scrutiny Review
Scrutiny Review — Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Evidence Gathering	Jo Walker, Assistant Director for Growth  Steve Welsby, Communications Manager  Simon Walters, Strategic Director for Communities and Environment  Sarah Loftus, Lincoln BIG  Barry Hepton, Business Owner (Bailgate)	Evidence Gathering
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

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**16 December 2020**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Objectives	Graham Watts	Scrutiny Review
Scrutiny Review — Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Evidence Gathering	Derek Ward - Director of Public Health (Lincolnshire County Council)	Evidence Gathering
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

**26 January 2021**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Objectives	Graham Watts	Scrutiny Review
Scrutiny Review — Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Evidence Gathering	Justin Brown – Assistant Director for Growth (Lincolnshire County Council)	Evidence Gathering
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

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**16<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Scrutiny Review - Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Objectives	Graham Watts	Scrutiny Review
Scrutiny Review — Impact on Businesses and Employment during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Evidence Gathering	Lynsey Collinson/Kate Edgar – Development Plus  Graham Metcalfe – Partnership Manager (DWP)	Evidence Gathering
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report

9 March 2021

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Strategic Priority/ Comments
Work Programme for 2020-21 Update	Democratic Services Officer	Regular Report