

**ITEM No ...4.....**

**REPORT TO:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 MAY 2021  
**REPORT ON:** COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN PROGRESS AND UPDATE  
**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**REPORT NO:** 157 - 2021

**1 PURPOSE OF BRIEFING**

1.1 This report provides an update on the COVID-19 Recovery Plan agreed for Dundee City Council Services in August 2020, revisions due to the second lockdown and sets out initial plans for the release phases in line with the latest Scottish Government’s Strategic Framework.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

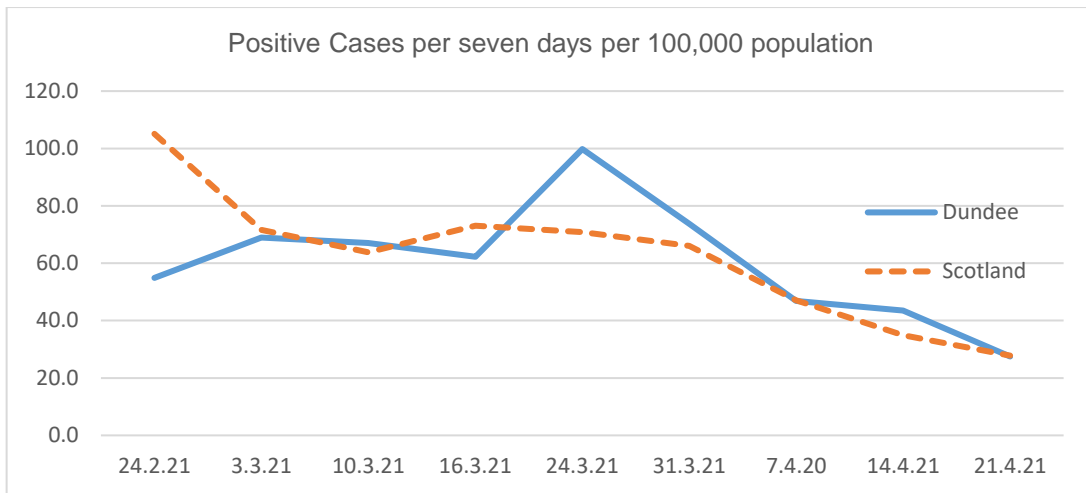
- 2.1 It is recommended that elected members:
- a endorse this Recovery Plan across Dundee City Council Service areas;
  - b note that Recovery Plan actions will become part of the Service Plan reports being prepared for each committee to scrutinise progress.
  - c note that the Dundee City Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board approved a Revised Covid-19 Recovery Plan (Report No DIJB18-2021) at its meeting on 21 April 2021.
  - d note that Leisure and Culture Dundee are developing their own detailed recovery plan.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

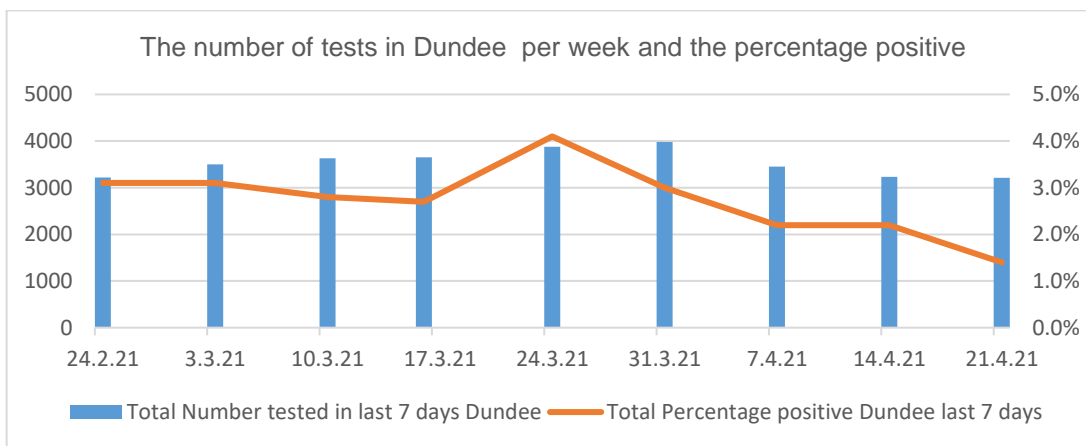
3.1 The financial impact to the Council was reported by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to Policy & Resources Committee on 26 April 2021, Report No 120-2021 - Financial Implications of The Council’s Response to The COVID-19 Emergency And Financial Recovery Plan – Update.

**4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council adopted a COVID Recovery Plan (Article XIV of the Minute of Policy and Resources Committee on 24 August 2020 refers). This aimed to address the significant economic and social impacts of the suppression of the virus as well as recovering services from the first wave lockdown. Currently the UK and Scotland remain in the response phase of this emergency. It is still not known over one year on from the initial lockdown when we are likely to move fully into the economic and social recovery phase with almost no COVID related restriction on economic and social activity.
- 4.2 Tragically, at 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 226 Dundee residents had lost their lives with COVID-19 directly attributed as the cause of death. 6,868 have contracted COVID 19 and tested positive too.
- 4.3 The graph below shows for the 8 weeks covering February to mid-April how Dundee has oscillated around the Scottish Average, but had a short-lived spike above the average indicating a spike in cases being quickly suppressed.



4.4 The graph below shows how the number of tests carried out each week remains stable at around 3,500 on average per week and the positive test rate is gradually coming down. The suppression approach will be to maintain a testing regime that will potentially rise as schools and other workplaces reopen and there is more asymptomatic testing. At the same time the positive test rate should come down.



4.5 Life has been hugely disrupted with the continued restrictions during 2020 and the second lockdown resulting in social distancing requiring people to stay at home and/or 2 metres apart, schools and many workplaces were closed for a large part of the past year. There is increasing economic hardship due to job losses, reduced hours and inability to trade fully leading to greater uncertainty about future prospects. The lockdown has led to social isolation with fears of an increase in mental health issues and loneliness.

4.6 The COVID-19 Look Back report (report no.189-2020) to Policy & Resources Committee on 24 August 2020 (Article XIII of the Minute refers) detailed the establishment of the COVID-19 Supporting People Programme with workstreams and processes for the council to provide humanitarian assistance to citizens across the City, including the shielding group. Response operations have also included supplying PPE for essential workers, supporting financial and food assistance programmes and the roll out of testing and vaccinations. Essential services have had to adopt new hybrid procedures to adapt to the physical distance constraints and risk assessments. These operations and hybrid approaches will have to be maintained for some time yet until the risk level is significantly reduced. Similar reflective reports detailing the Health and Social Care Partnership response to the pandemic have also been produced (Report Nos DIJB22-2020 and DIJB17-2021).

- 4.7 Report 155-2021 Funding for COVID Supports For 2021/22 sets out details of the range of supports provided to citizens at risk financially due to COVID during 2020/21 and plans to continue support during 2021/22.
- 4.8 Since the outset of the pandemic Dundee City Council has administered a range of business support schemes utilising funding proved by Scottish Government to support local companies and self-employed persons with the financial challenges associated with the pandemic. All schemes, with the exception of the Discretionary Fund, are now closed for applications. The table below outlines the number of successful applications and payments made under the respective schemes as at 19th April 2021.

<b>Business Grants managed by Dundee City Council at 19th April 2021</b>		
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Successful applications</b>	<b>Total Paid Out (£m)</b>
COVID 19 Business Grants	2,372	26.875
Newly Self Employed Hardship Grants	183	0.366
COVID 19 Brake Restrictions Fund	186	0.281
Contingency Fund (Night Clubs and Soft Play Centres)	4	0.110
Contingency Fund Plus (Travel Agents, Brewers)	10	0.160
Strategic Framework Business Fund (Levels 3&4) including April 2021 Restart Grant	1,152	19.732
Strategic Framework January 2021 Top Ups (Hospitality, non-essential retail and leisure)	980	5.334
Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund	914	1.371
Discretionary Fund (including Taxi Driver Top-ups)	1,129	1.983
Exclusive Use and Large Scale Self Catering Grant	3	0.006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,933</b>	<b>56.22</b>

## 5 SERVICE RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

- 5.1 To update the current recovery plan a review of all actions was undertaken with services indicating which actions have been completed or to be carried forward into their service plans. The table below provides a high-level summary showing a total of 654 actions with 67% short term and 42% long term actions having been completed.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Short Term</b>			<b>Long Term</b>		
	Complete	Still to be Complete	<b>Total</b>	Complete	C/f to Service Plan	<b>Total</b>
Chief Executive	33	10	<b>43</b>	11	31	<b>42</b>
Children and Families	43	9	<b>52</b>	17	14	<b>31</b>
City Development	33	44	<b>77</b>	14	56	<b>70</b>
Corporate Services	46	8	<b>54</b>	11	22	<b>33</b>
Neighbourhood Services	87	46	<b>133</b>	70	49	<b>119</b>
	<b>242</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>295</b>

Note that the long-term actions were covering a period of up to 3 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown release.

- 5.2 The way in which the Council as an organisation operates and the way in which its people have responded and will continue to the respond in the future is vital to the recovery process. The

majority of the completed actions relate to adapting to COVID and maintaining essential operations and procedures.

- 5.3 The Council has learned a great deal since lockdown about the strength and resilience of our workforce. There is a need to build on the positives learned from the mobilisation of our workforce during lockdown. The commitment, creativity and goodwill has been outstanding. Services continued to be delivered and, in many cases, from home. A national priority was to maintain children's education and Children and Families, along with support from Tayside Contracts , supports services and volunteers were able to open schools, look after children and adapt to new learning and assessment methods. The social care workforce delegated to the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership, alongside the delegated community health workforce, maintained lifeline social care services for the most vulnerable and at risk supported by the provision of PPE, testing and latterly vaccination.
- 5.4 Digital solutions were made available quickly to allow work to continue flexibly, collaboratively and remotely with home working continuing to be in the norm where appropriate. None more so than in education where home learning and blended approaches were quickly devised. And now almost 4,000 digital devices are being supplied to pupils to aim for digital inclusion in online learning.
- 5.5 Many employees have embraced home working and productivity has increased in some areas. The requirement to continue to home-work where you can in the short to medium term remains in place. An employee survey will also capture views on how our workforce wish to work going forward as it is very likely that there will be blended approaches.
- 5.6 Health and Safety played a major role in how we responded to COVID-19 and will continue to have a high profile, providing robust health and safety advice and guidance for our workforce. Risk assessments and identifying the correct PPE requirements were urgent but will have a long-term requirement.
- 5.7 Our pulse survey results show there is anxiety amongst employees around what the future of their working environment and travelling to and from work may look and feel like, so engagement and their wellbeing will continue to be a focus. Ensuring that employees do not feel isolated must also continue to be a priority.
- 5.8 All employee related policies and practice procedures are being reviewed to reflect the new normal, with meetings previously done face to face, being done via web or tele conference, homeworking being more of the norm in the short to medium term. These developments are linked to digital solutions being found as not all employees have the facility or devices to allow this to happen easily.
- 5.9 Relationships with the trade unions have been strong throughout lockdown and it is vital that this is maintained. Working collaboratively with our Trade Unions colleagues can greatly assist our recovery journey. As we emerge into what will be our new normal, continual dialogue on how we emerge stronger, learn from the digital solutions and new ways of working developed, manage expectations and how we manage workforce change, allowing service delivery to change and develop is critical.
- 5.10 The Council is currently developing a prioritisation programme for its property portfolio. The immediate focus was developing all educational facilities to the required standards for the return of staff and pupils through H&S servicing works, enhanced hygiene and cleaning measures and COVID-19 compliant guidance ensuring social distancing. The plan, looking ahead, will encompass all services' recovery strategies including new ways of working continuing. The reopening of individual premises will be on a phased basis, services will work in consultation with City Development and health and safety to ensure a realistic timeline is achieved. This includes working closely with Leisure and Culture Dundee and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

## 6 REOPENING IN LINE WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

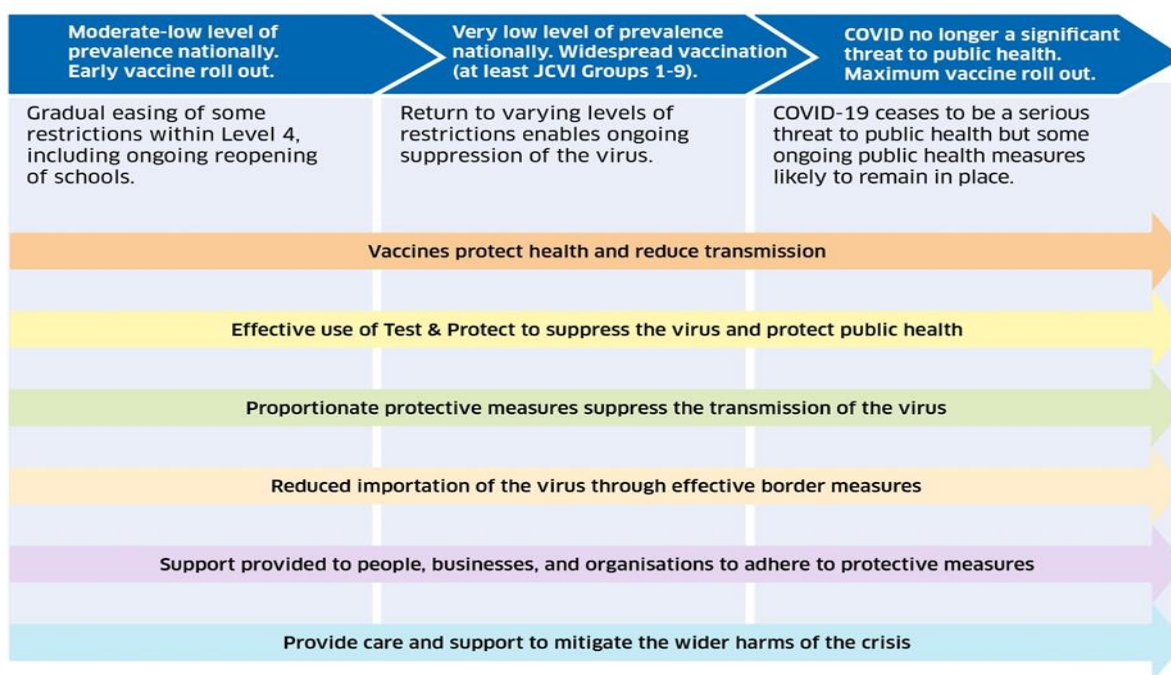
- 6.1 A planned approach to reopening and reconfiguration of the Council's property portfolio will be essential to supporting the organisation to recover to effective future service delivery. The Scottish Government Strategic Framework sets out a timeframe when various service activities can restart.
- 6.2 Reopening is a complex task across a range of properties and services and means the process will be phased over a period of months. In advance of opening service managers need to complete risk assessments, conduct walk throughs with Trade unions and ensure all the safety procedures are in place before employees can return and begin allowing in service users.
- 6.3 As service providers the Council appreciates service users' frustrations, but a phased approach is key to successful and sustainable restart. Priority continues to be given to most vulnerable people and communities. Priority is also being given to ensuring gradual recovery of the economy and city centre retail footfall. The safety of our employees and service users is paramount in all that we are doing.
- 6.4 The table below gives a general overview of the reopening of council facilities in line with the Scottish Government Framework for the planned relaxing of restrictions.

Date	Framework Phase	Council Facilities ( restrictions)
<b>19 April</b>	National Priority All School Pupils Returning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools Open to all pupils - primary and secondary</li> <li>day centres and respite centres has begun, with the Oakland Centre (a limited capacity)</li> <li>the Turriff Intermediate Care suite and can support emergency respite for people with dementia</li> <li>Staff Returning to facilities planned for opening following week</li> </ul>
<b>26 April (Level 3)</b>	Includes Gyms and Indoor Attractions, All shops and travel across Scotland permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Library and separate community Libraries (limited opening hours and functions)</li> <li>McManus Galleries and DCA</li> <li>Camperdown Wildlife Centre</li> <li>Sports and Swim Centres (with restricted use)</li> <li>Sports and Swim centres in Secondary Schools (restricted to either outdoor or individual tuition indoors)</li> <li>Dundee House Customer Services (appointment only and not cashiers)</li> </ul>
<b>17 May (Level 2)</b>	Includes indoor hospitality, cinemas some indoor group exercise and some face to face customer service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Centres and co-located libraries between 10 – 17 May</li> <li>The Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership plans to begin opening day and respite services for adults out of the White top and day support services out of the Wellgate centre in May. Individuals and their families will continue to receive updates on progress.</li> </ul>
<b>Early June (Level 1)</b>	Includes Increased indoor non-contact sport and some events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrictions ease allowing more activities and sports within Council and LACD premises</li> </ul>

Date	Framework Phase	Council Facilities ( restrictions)
Late June (Level 0)	Includes Phased return for some office staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earliest that office-based employees may begin returning but will be developed based on feedback from employee surveys.</li> </ul>

## 6.5 VIRUS SUPPRESSION IN LINE WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Framework is structured around six key tools which are being used to get coronavirus to the lowest possible level and keep it there, which will then allow gradual changes to the restrictions. All six of these elements need to be used together and it will take commitment from all citizens to make them work effectively. The table below outlines the six key requirements.



[www.gov.scot/coronavirus](http://www.gov.scot/coronavirus) to ensure you are viewing the most up-to-date information and guidance about coronavirus.

6.6 The table below outlines the main contribution the Council is making and will need to continue to make provision for over the year.

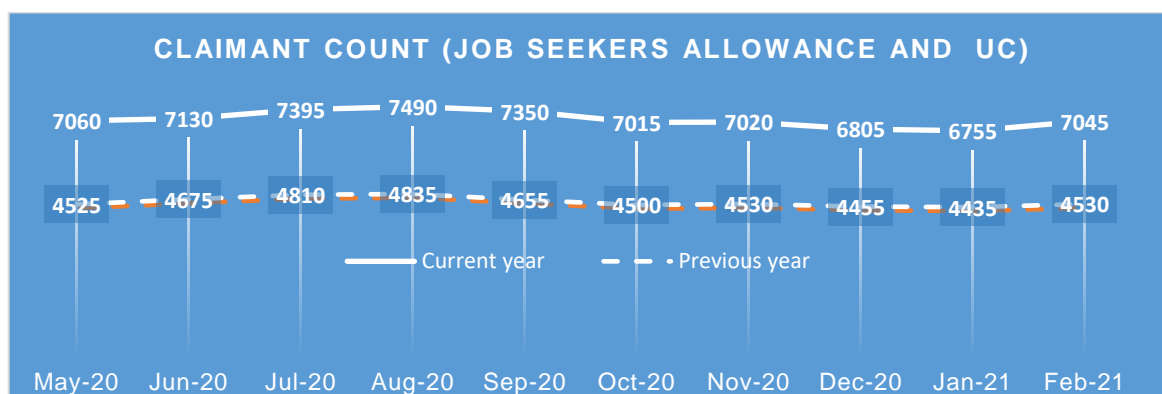
Strategic Framework	Dundee City Council's Policy and Resources
Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vaccination centre is processing on average 750 doses each day and at the time of writing (19 April) 56.5% of the Dundee population over 16 have received their first dose and 19.5% their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.</li> <li>• The Council continues to provide the Caird Hall as the vaccination centre until at least September 2021, on average 30 Council staff support the vaccination centre 7 days per week.</li> <li>• The Council promotes communications for everyone about the importance of getting vaccinated.</li> <li>• The programme is likely to continue beyond everyone over 16 receiving their second doses to plans for children to be vaccinated and a potential for booster vaccinations. Tayside NHS has recruited a vaccination team on two-year contracts.</li> </ul>
Test and Protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council continues to offer land and buildings for the local testing centres and the mobile asymptomatic mobile and ensure staff,</li> </ul>

Strategic Framework	Dundee City Council's Policy and Resources
	<p>customers and school pupils adhere to guidance on routine use of testing to maintain services in schools and care home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools will provide staff and secondary pupils with Lateral Flow Device tests for twice-weekly, at-home rapid testing. Participants should then record all results (positive, negative or void) on the online digital reporting portal</li> <li>• Staff within the Children and Families and the Health and Social Care Partnership are participating in the Scottish Government's asymptomatic testing programme, alongside priority staff in third and independent sector social care providers.</li> <li>• The Council's Customer Service Team is currently making c220 outbound calls per week to people traced by the Test and Protect Service to offer support to self-isolate from a high of c500 calls per week.</li> <li>• The Council is supporting the communications operation to suppress the virus in potential outbreaks by promoting increased testing and self-isolation in areas with any sudden increase in prevalence.</li> </ul>
Protective measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently the Council is managing the supply of c180,000 PPE items per week to Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership (including third and independent sector providers).</li> <li>• Provision will need to be made to accommodate this operation beyond June and staff it accordingly to accommodate the main use of these facilities for the medium to longer term – for at least the remainder of this year.</li> </ul>
Border and levels measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once the current lockdown restrictions have been gradually eased, there may be a return to a system of protection levels that can be applied locally depending on the variation in positive tests per 100k population and the positive rate as a percentage of the tests conducted.</li> <li>• To be in the lowest level Dundee should aim for the World Health Organisation standard of below 20 per 100k (43.5 as at 19/4/21) and less than 2% of tests carried out (2.2% as at 19/4/21)). Dundee, as an urban centre has mostly been close to the Scottish Average.</li> <li>• Depending on the variation in levels the Council may need to communicate with citizens and business the extent of travel permitted between Dundee and other parts of Scotland.</li> </ul>
Support to People , Business Organisations to adhere to protective measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has supported the application, verification and supply of the following support grants to people and business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crisis Grants – Ave 192 per week</li> <li>- Community Care Grants – Ave 49 per week</li> <li>- Self-Isolation Support Grant - 290 awarded in total</li> <li>- Fuel -well – 3,447 awarded in total</li> <li>- School meals payments in place of free school meals in school - Around 6,000 children are covered by the scheme, £24.75 per child for over and paid directly to family bank accounts on Wed 7th April.</li> <li>- Business support grants administration as detailed in 4.8</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officers are carrying out on average 16 visits per week on request by the public and 20 per week planned proactive visits to businesses to help adherence to the protective measures for each sector</li> </ul>

Strategic Framework	Dundee City Council's Policy and Resources
Provide Care and Support to mitigate the wider harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next section of the report addresses the wider harms for next stage of the recovery planning.</li> <li>• Throughout the Council has supported the Food Insecurity Network which has throughout supported on average 4,000 people each week at its peak, but now since early 2021 stabilised at 2,500 per week</li> <li>• The Council has identified priority areas to apply Flexible Funding in 2021/22 to Effectively Respond to the Emerging Needs of People in Dundee affected by Covid-19, which is the subject of a separate report to the Committee</li> <li>• The Council, alongside other Community Planning Partners, has developed bespoke responses to address the needs of children, young people and adults at risk of harm. Through the Chief Officers Group and public protection committees there has been a focus on identifying and addressing the risk of 'hidden harm' and on the continued provision of frontline multi-agency public protection services.</li> </ul>

## 7 PLANNING FOR RECOVERY FROM COVID HARM

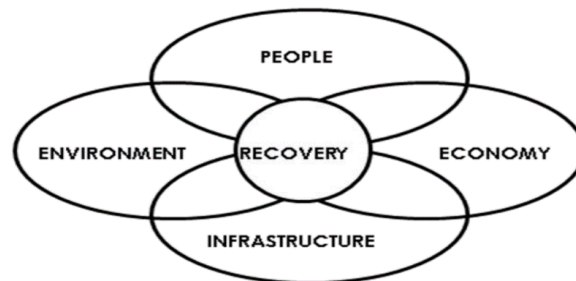
- 7.1 The pandemic has 4 Harms: COVID, Non COVID Health, Social and Economic. This section of the report sets out the need to plan to address each and will focus on the issues the Council can directly influence.
- 7.2 Three surveys were undertaken by a range of partners in the middle of 2020 just after the first lockdown period to explore issues arising for people in Dundee during the pandemic and assess experience of using services. The total sample size was 1535: Fairness Commission 452; Engage Dundee 892; Food Insecurity Network 192. The findings will help to understand more fully the impact of the pandemic, particularly on those who are most disenfranchised and find it hardest to be heard.
- 7.3 Results from these surveys show emerging themes regarding the impact of the pandemic during and moving out of lockdown and reflect to varying degrees the 3 indirect harms caused by the pandemic. The most common themes across the surveys related to mental health impacts, reduced access to services, social isolation and financial insecurity. For many, the issues were interconnected and for some the pandemic had exacerbated what were already difficult life circumstances.
- 7.4 The full financial and economic impact on citizens is not yet fully understood and may be masked to some extent by the Job Retention Scheme. The Claimant Count in Dundee shows it grew by 55% compared to the previous year, adding a further 2,500 people on the latest figures compared to the previous year as shown in the graph below.





- 7.5 The unemployment rate in Scotland continues to compare well against historical trends, however the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme supported around 14.9% of employments at the end of January 2021. Based on the Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate for women is 3.5% and for men is 4.8%. The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) is 8.6%.
- 7.6 The latest positive destination figure for 16 -19 years olds in Dundee is 88%. National research is highlighting that young people who have recently left education and who have recently entered (or are about to enter) the labour market are more susceptible to long-term unemployment and pay scarring as a result of the pandemic and employees under 25 were about two and a half times more likely to work in sector experiencing shutdowns as a result of the pandemic.
- 7.7 The diagram below provides a framework for understanding the thematic scope of the recovery process.

### Framework for understanding the impact of emergencies



### People (Social)

- 7.8 In moving towards social recovery, it is crucial that actions are properly informed and jointly developed by people with long-term experience of deprivation and the more recent impact of COVID-19. Glasgow Centre for Population Health asserted that recovery can build on asset-based approaches and ways of working, participatory budgeting and community resilience. Their key overarching message, however, is that *for community recovery approaches to be effective and transformational, their design and delivery must clearly incorporate the views, insights and wisdom of community members and those identified as having additional vulnerability to COVID-19.*
- 7.9 Recovery planning may also result in significant changes to the shape and level of services and/or facilities. Given that those vulnerable to the additional impact of the pandemic are already those in poverty or with protected characteristics (including BAME, women and people with disabilities), responsibilities associated with the Fairer Scotland Duty, the Equality Act and the growing focus on human rights must be at the forefront of planning. This will necessitate a thorough process of impact assessment prior to major changes.
- 7.10 The Council is about to published its Equalities Mainstreaming report recently and is working on an action plan to come back to committee later this year. An updated Child Poverty and Fairness Action Plan is also under development and due to committee before recess. Both of these reports are the culmination of engagement with and incorporate the views of people of at greatest risk of mental health, social isolation and worried about loss of income and economic uncertainty. They will include recommendations and actions to further engage with and support those in poverty and communities covered by the Equalities Act.
- 7.11 All the survey evidence is that mental health issues are a rising concern and it was specifically picked up in the Fairness Commission survey where two thirds of respondents were concerned about their mental health in the coming year and in the Engage Dundee local community planning survey mental health advice was the most commonly sought service after GPs, and self-help websites. It is therefore important to note that following a review of crisis and urgent

care services over the last year, a progress report on the mental health was considered by the Dundee Integration Joint Board on April 21 (Report No DIJB22-2021).

- 7.12 The Dundee Health and Social Care partnership is proposing that a Community Wellbeing Hub (CWH), often referred to as a crisis centre, will be established in Dundee, which will be "always open," operating 24/7 and led by voluntary sector partners. The hub will be a single point of entry – including a single phone number – both for people experiencing a mental health crisis and people experiencing emotional distress. People will not be required to go to an acute hospital, such as Ninewells, to be assessed. This will ensure that everyone requiring specialist mental health support has easy and immediate access to it in the community.
- 7.13 Included in the Report 155-2021 Funding for COVID-19 Supports For 2021/22 are details of the range of supports provided to citizens at risk financially due to COVID during 2020/21 and plans to continue support during 2021/22. The following initiatives are being proposed to receive further funding during 2021/22:
- Financially At Risk Help
    - Food Insecurity network
    - Fuel Well
    - Discretionary Housing Payments
  - Additional need identified in local surveys and data
    - Responding to needs identified through the Helpline
    - Responding to additional demand on Domestic Abuse Services
    - Development of Community Based Integrated Advice Model
    - Community Based Activities to tackle isolation and support wellbeing
    - Expansion of Digital Inclusion
    - Support for Community Food Organisations
    - Inclusive Communications
- 7.14 Early work has focussed on the Council's response to COVID. In order to support the city to fully recover, however, a multi-agency response will be needed and it is proposed that this should be strategically managed through the community planning process with overall leadership resting with the Dundee Partnership, its Executive Boards and the Chief Officers Group (Public Protection).
- 7.15 The Dundee Partnership has implemented community planning in the city for over 20 years and has an even longer record of joint working to achieve economic development and regeneration. With a reputation of driving partnership working and collaboration, it is well placed to oversee one of the greatest challenges in the city's recent history. Through the underpinning local community planning partnerships (LCCPs) it can ensure that the voice of local communities informs the pathway to recovery.
- 7.16 The City Plan for Dundee 2017-2026 sets out the vision for Dundee framed around jobs, social inclusion and quality of life and the detailed outcomes that are needed to deliver these. The process of renewing the goals and ambitions in the restructuring phase would be adopt the themes in the City Plan, Fairness and Sustainable Dundee theme groups. The Partnership Theme groups would aim to engage partners and communities across Dundee with a further extensive Engage Dundee process in developing a city vision, revision to the current City Plan 2017-2026 and a new Council Plan 2022-2026 to be adopted in summer 2022. That should capture how to make Dundee fairer, greener and more prosperous. It should also capture how people want their public services and city transformed and designed to meet their needs for the future. As a UNESCO City of Design, Dundee can aim to be a leader on how to design a city to meet the needs of its people and the future.

## Economy

- 7.17 The City's approach to "economic" recovery should also take cognisance of the UK and Scottish Government's process of response in this regard. The latter is framed around "reset, restart and recovery". Many of the powers and resources to aid recovery fall outside the control of local government and influencing how these are utilised and distributed will be key. An Advisory Group on Economic Recovery has been established by Scottish Government and in response to a recent consultation exercise the Local Government Chief Executive organisation SOLACE made 5 key asks:
- a. accelerated economic infrastructure investment programmes, including measures to strengthen the delivery and maximise the impact of city / growth deals;
  - b. a focus on Scotland's supply chain management, building the capacity and capability of Scottish companies;
  - c. targeted and bespoke active labour market policies alongside upskilling and reskilling the workforce and safeguarding apprenticeships;
  - d. integrating community wealth building within Scotland's economic recovery plan building a fairer and more inclusive Scotland;
  - e. meaningful consideration of a green new deal for Scotland.
- 7.18 The recent local Engage Dundee and Fairness Commission Surveys highlight people's concern for their economic future. The following initiatives can give some confidence that Dundee is well placed to recover.
- **The Tay Cities Deal** was signed. The partnership has entered a commitment to deliver a £300m programme over 10 years that will create over 6,000 jobs and secure up to £400m investment.
  - the **Port of Dundee** is constructing new quaysides as part of a £40m investment as it looks to service offshore renewable energy and oil and gas sectors. The work will be complete towards the end of 2021 when the port will welcome Siemens Gamesa who will use the port as construction hub for Neart Na Gaoithe offshore wind farm.
  - **Orbital Marine Power Ltd (Orbital)**, Scottish-based developers of the world's leading floating tidal turbine technology, successfully launched its 2MW tidal turbine, the Orbital O2, from the Port of Dundee in April 2021. This is helping Scotland to achieve its ambition in tackling the climate emergency and further showcasing Dundee as a city which is transforming itself into a hub for renewables and innovation.
  - **Social Security Scotland** announced that it will establish its HQ on the Dundee Waterfront. The Agency continues to grow its presence in the city potentially employing up to 900 people.
  - **Northern Lights Arena European Limited (NLAE)** plan to build a multi-purpose 4,000 seater arena on the waterfront that will host sporting events as well as an esports academy, retail, accommodation and working spaces.
  - **BT Group** has announced Dundee will be one of its key locations, providing a future-fit workplace for colleagues. BT Group is one of the largest private sector employers in Dundee, supporting around 1,200 jobs through direct employees and contractors in the city. The five-year programme, due to complete in 2024. The company will shortly announce a major new office hub in the City.
  - **Embark Group** also continue to grow its presence in the City since acquisition of Alliance Trust in 2019. The City is now the HQ for the Platform and the company and plans on doubling its workforce. The company are also working with partners FNZ and Anthemis, to create a dedicated fintech venture studio as part of its West Marketgait operation.

- The Council continues to play a key role in delivering the **Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc** with partners Scottish Enterprise and Michelin. The Council has now delivered £7.5 million investment which will support the sites transformation and also support the development of a flagship Innovation Hub. 2020/2021 has seen numerous positive announcements including the attraction of the sites first tenants including **Solariskit, MEP Technologies, Swarco and Arcola Energy**.
- 7.19 A Community Wealth Building strategy is being developed that will seek the co-operation of all anchor businesses and partner agencies within the City to work collectively to maximise the benefits of their combined procurement and deliver fairness, prosperity and jobs by, wherever possible, taking a Dundee first approach to procurement. More opportunities will be found where the community can supply the needs of local organisations in a sustainable way.
- 7.20 The Employability Partnership will be addressing the needs of people seeking work especially if new skills are required such as digital online interviews. Dundee's Young Person Guarantee will guarantee every young person aged between 16 and 24 the opportunity, based on their own personal circumstances and ambitions, to go to university or college, an apprenticeship programme, training, fair employment including work experience or participating in a formal volunteering programme. The programme is funded through the Scottish Government and is closely linked to its No One Left Behind approach to employability support and economic recovery.
- 7.21 As part of our implementation of the Young People's Guarantee, the Youth Employability Service will enhance its support to young people through;
  - Providing increased key worker support to help young people plan and progress into training, work or further learning
  - Develop more robust engagement work, in partnership with Communities and other partners, to try to encourage young people to take up the offer of support
  - Develop and deliver employability skills training programme linked to local labour market intelligence
  - Enhance the current after care offer to 52 weeks following a young person successfully moving into work, training or learning.

## Environment

- 7.22 To a certain extent, the environment has experienced a short-term benefit from the current crisis where a reduction in car use, air travel and more people now walking and cycling has resulted in lower emissions, improved air quality and increased biodiversity. This has driven demand for a lasting green recovery and one that ensures long-term environmental benefits and local resilience to future shocks, not least of all those that will be brought about by climate change. The environment should therefore be a key consideration during the next phase.
- 7.23 This is reinforced by respondents to the Engage Dundee survey that felt there had been positive developments due to lockdown/Covid restrictions. 57.7% reported less traffic, 41.5% reported spending more time with their family, 30.2% made more use of green space, and 28% exercised more.
- 7.24 Dundee's Climate Action Plan provides the foundations for a green recovery in Dundee. This will be bolstered by the formation of the Climate Leadership Group to steer the City towards net zero. A big focus in the year ahead will be engagement with the community on developing the green recovery in Dundee. A major programme of engagement is planned in the run up to COP 26 including all Council staff, communities and schools. A £250,000 participatory budgeting climate change environment challenge fund has been established to capture local ideas and put them into practice.
- 7.25 The Scottish Government is investing £62 million to transition the crisis hit oil and gas industry towards low carbon energy projects, sending a clear message that increasing renewables in

Dundee must be a priority. With the announcement of large scale offshore wind installations, including Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) for which all 54 turbines will be assembled by Siemens at Dundee Port; the decommissioning of oil and gas installations, for which Dundee is fast establishing itself as a go to hub as successful work on Shell's Curlew vessel demonstrates; and the planned innovation and investment into low carbon energy and transport at Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc, it is clear that Dundee will play a central role in Scotland's green recovery.

7.26 Continuing to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, increasing Solar PV on many of our south facing roofs, increasing district heating and researching renewables opportunities from our local water bodies are all further opportunities to ensure our energy systems are resilient and sustainable, whilst also reducing the inevitable increasing fuel poverty that will result from the COVID-19 crisis.

7.27 With less cars on the road, now is the opportune time to improve our cycling and walking infrastructure, taking advantage of the quieter roads to test out different routes that will minimise impacts on local businesses. The Council has lodged successful bids for the Spaces for People Scheme which funds temporary active travel measures during the COVID-19 recovery period. A Low Emission Zone is also being developed that will help to create a healthy, vibrant and attractive city by protecting public health through improving air quality.

### **Infrastructure**

7.28 The requirements for social distancing and the acceleration of home working also has profound implications for operational buildings, commercial premises and the city's office market. Therefore, infrastructure is also a key consideration for the recovery phase.

7.29 The full impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the city centre is yet to be known. Over the last 15 months, many businesses have been closed or unable to trade as normal; city centre office staff have been working from home; events have been cancelled; and cultural attractions have been closed for significant periods. It is clear that a number of high-profile retailers with stores in Dundee have closed down, including Debenhams, Top Shop, Zara and Thorntons. Online retail sales have increased significantly and new shopping habits have become embedded in the population.

7.30 The Council has launched the LOVE DUNDEE LOCAL campaign and app to support local retail, hospitality, leisure and traders. The signage in Dundee shopping areas is upgraded to include the COVID safe messages. A further new part of the love local infrastructure is the Love Dundee Local app developed in conjunction with the Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce so that even the switch to online trading can be retained locally.

7.31 Despite international tourism remaining restricted and it is too early to determine how that market will recover, Dundee is well placed to capitalise on domestic travel having been named the UK's Staycation City of the Year. The Council has maintained its City Marketing budget with the aim to attract people to the City and is giving due priority to safely reopening city attractions. This funding the Put Dundee On Your Map marketing campaigns encouraging people from across the country to explore all that the city has to offer.

7.32 To address the change in retail space and empty properties in the centre the implement Vacant to Vibrant projects will start in partnership with colleagues in UNESCO City of Design and Creative Dundee to promote the reuse of empty spaces and animate city centre streets.

7.33 Over the coming months, work will continue to prepare a draft City Centre Strategic Investment Plan to be reported to the City Development Committee in the autumn. This document will be informed by the consultancy work supported by the Scottish Government City Centre Recovery Fund and the City Centre Recovery Task Force. It will also be aligned with ongoing areas of focus, including the establishment of a Low Emission Zone and the continued regeneration of the Waterfront.

- 7.34 Consistent with Dundee’s Changing for the Future ambitions the City can utilise Dundee’s world class digital infrastructure (enhanced by City Fibre, free public wifi in the centre and the development of a 5G test bed) and existing skills in key sectors such as games and life sciences.
- 7.35 The first “Active Travel Hub” will form part of wider 7,000 sq ft urban beach development adjacent to the V&A which is due to be completed by Summer 2021. Facilitating active travel by walking, wheeling and cycling including increased use of eBikes is a major opportunity to create a cleaner, greener and healthier future. Increased free bus travel concession to all under 22s in addition to all over 60s will further contribute to embedding the reduction in traffic once the COVID restrictions on this mode eases further. Mobility will be a significant area of innovation facilitating the positive change that electric and other low or zero emission vehicles, driverless cars and drones can bring to how people and goods are moved around the city. Through the City Centre Investment plan, the Mobility Innovation Living Laboratory and the Michelin Innovation Parc Dundee will be engaging widely being a leader in this change.
- 7.36 Dundee City Council is promoting the Places for People approach and using the Place Standard as the basis for Engage Dundee. 2021 will be a year of lots of engagement on the development of the new plans for the City to be brought forward for starting to put in place the long-term positive recovery for the City and building the new infrastructure with local communities.

## **8 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues to be highlight in this update.

## **9 CONSULTATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **10 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None

GREGORY COLGAN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

29 APRIL 2020