

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: Covid Recovery Working Party – Key Outcomes from the Cabinet Meeting held on 21 September 2020

REPORT AUTHOR: Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive

DATE: 2 November 2020

EXTN: 37600

PORTFOLIO AREA: Corporate Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report prioritises the recommendations from Cabinet on 21 September 2020 in relation to the Covid Recovery Working Party and attempts to identify associated costs, if known at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is requested to resolve to:

- i) Note the report and instruct Officers how to proceed with each proposal listed in Appendix A.

1. BACKGROUND:

The Covid 19 Recovery Working Party is a cross political party group of members looking at issues the Council needs to consider as it tries to recover economically from the pandemic. The Working Party have met on 2 July 2020, 23 July 2020 and 8 September 2020. At their meeting on 8 September 2020, the Covid 19 Recovery Working Party agreed to not confirm future meeting dates at this time, but be able to meet when needed, in light of the changing factors surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Working Party remain keen to move beyond the immediate response to Covid-19 and look to the impact of the pandemic on the local economy, businesses and workforce. This impact is increasingly evident and fast-changing. The November 2020 Lockdown, announced on 31 October 2020, will increase that impact.

According to Government figures, the number of out of work claimants aged 16+ in June 2020 was over 2.5 times those in March at just under 26,000; over 35,000 have claimed

the Government's financial support for the self-employed; and over 125,000 employees have been furloughed. The Government's furlough arrangement has just come to an end.

Strong partnerships and a collaborative approach will be essential as the Council tries to understand the complex nature of the economy and skills within the District. The work of the Recovery Working Party helps to provide the framework for our economic activities.

West Sussex County Council have also been creating an Economic Reset Plan, with three main themes;

1. Maximising opportunities to support businesses,
2. Progressing skills and employment activities, and,
3. Supporting and reviving the visitor economy.

Many of the proposals within the Appendix to this report mirror these three County Council themes. The proposals should help to focus this Council's resources to stimulate economic activity in the District.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

Cabinet is requested to resolve to:

- ii) Note this report and instruct Officers how to proceed with each proposal listed in Appendix A.

3. OPTIONS:

Cabinet can:

- i) Instruct Officers how to proceed with each proposal listed in Appendix A.
- AND/OR:
- ii) Provide alternative or additional proposals for Officers to consider further.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		X
Relevant District Ward Councillors		X
Other groups/persons (please specify) – Cabinet Portfolios	✓	
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal		X
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		X
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		X
Sustainability		X
Asset Management/Property/Land		X

Technology		X
Other (please explain)		

6. IMPLICATIONS:

The Coronavirus pandemic has created a tremendous amount of work for Officers over recent months and there does not appear to be any sight of a reduction in this, particularly now that we enter a second Lockdown. Because day to day service to the community (and support work behind the scenes) continues during the pandemic, the workload and time that Officers are already working is excessive. Whilst the proposals within the Appendix to the report are indeed worthy of following through (if agreed), the lack of capacity of Officers to deliver this work should not be underestimated. This lack of capacity will have an effect on the timescales for delivery.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To support the ambition of the Council to help the community recover from the Coronavirus pandemic as quickly and painlessly as possible.

8 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION: 25 November 2020

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Covid Recovery Working Party minutes from 8.9.20 - [Covid-19 Recovery Working Party Minutes - 080920](#)

Cabinet minutes from 21.9.20 - [Cabinet Minutes Page on the Web](#)