

Lighthorne Parish Council 14th July 2020
County Councillor's Report

Introduction

The County continues to concentrate on the medical support for the Coronavirus. Shire Hall is still in lockdown with staff working from home, where possible. I am pleased to report that there have been no significant outbreaks in my Division. All meetings continue to be held on Microsoft Teams and Zoom. The Council is now preparing a policy for continuing after lockdown. Our first full meeting of the Council is due 23rd July and I will, of course, update you on any outcome that affects your Parish.

I am forwarding information regarding recycling and would be grateful if this can be forwarded to members of the Parish Council. I hope that you find this of interest.

1. Financial Status

Key Headlines

The key headlines of the financial position are:

- The total estimated financial impact is £60.0m.
- This is £16.5m more than was reported due to including:
 - A provision for the cost of social distancing on home to school transport should this still be required by September; and
 - An increase in the estimated loss of income from business rates and council tax in 2020/21 and future years.
- The current estimated total cost is £28.4m more than the total grant funding expected to be receivable via the £24.8m Emergency Response Fund grants from the Government and the reimbursement of £5.5m from the £1.3bn Health Grant.
- The estimated costs are based on a lockdown until the end of July. Further areas where additional support may be needed include:
 - Some costs may extend beyond the assumption of a return to a mostly steady state at the start of August;
 - 'Stand-up' costs for services where adaptations or temporary arrangements are required for social distancing and public confidence. Although the changes to the guidance on social distancing announced this week should reduce the future financial impact where social distancing is the main driver of the estimated cost increases; and
 - Provision for the financial impact if a second spike/lockdown occurs.
- The level of reserves we hold now the 2019/20 accounts are closed should, when combined with areas of known underspend/increased grant income in 2020/21, be sufficient to meet the one-off identified costs of Covid-19 above the level of grant.
- The Authority does not anticipate any cash flow difficulties as a result of Covid-19.
- There will be areas where the increase in spend or loss of resourcing represents a permanent change. It is likely that the Authority will have to make some difficult choices about priorities over the coming months and increase in the level of budget reductions required over the medium term.

STAY SAFE

Cllr Chris Williams

Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division

12.07.2020