

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD ON 26th JANUARY, 2021**

PRESENT: D. Langton, N. Watson, D. Walker, J. Whittaker, J. Watson, H. Culshaw, M. Mason, J. McDonnell, A. Goode and S. Miller

Apologies for absence were received from P. Mousdale.

PART 1

490. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Strategic Crisis Management Team meeting held on 12th January, 2021 were submitted.

AGREED

That the Minutes be approved.

491. SITUATIONAL UPDATE

It was reported that the rate of infection had reduced to 530 per 100 thousand population. Pendle was currently in fourth place in the league tables behind Hyndburn, Blackburn-with-Darwen and Burnley.

The rate of infection was still high but numbers were continuing to reduce. It was felt that the Government would wait until infection rates had reduced more before opening up various parts of the economy.

With regards to schools it was acknowledged that primary schools may open first, just after Easter, with secondary schools not opening until May. It was felt that different areas of the country would 're-open' at different times depending on infection rates.

The vaccination programme was progressing well and the 75-80 and 70-75 year olds were now being sent invitations for their vaccinations. It was anticipated that everyone over 50 would have received their vaccine by the end of March, 2021. There was, however, a supply issue for the vaccines which could be a concern going forward.

However, there continued to be an increase in hospital admissions and the number of deaths.

492. LRF UPDATE

An update on discussions at the various LRF Groups was given.

It was reported that there had been discussions around the opening up of Rest Centres should there be a need following the weather warning given last week for potential flooding. This wasn't needed in Pendle but the discussion was felt to be useful as it raised issues relating to social distancing which needed to be considered when re-locating people and transporting them to alternative accommodation if needed. The priority was still to keep people in their own homes, wherever possible, and for them to support each other.

It was reported that Blackburn-with-Darwen's website had been identified as exemplar in providing Covid information.

The Health and Safety executive had contacted 500 businesses in the Borough and had referred 23 issues to the Council to follow up. There continued to be a problem with barbers shops and officers were working with the Police on these.

Mystery shopping exercises had been carried out last week and follow up work was continuing this week.

493. SERVICE POSITION STATEMENTS

An update from each service area was given and overall service provision was continuing. Staff were continuing to respond to demand although there was an increase in demand in some service areas.

However, it was reported that there was some pressure within Waste Services due to a number of staff members isolating from Covid but infilling had ensured that service delivery continued. .

Lateral flow testing was discussed and the implications this could have on service delivery should there be any positive tests. It was felt that the Business Continuity Plan covered the 'worst case scenarios' but putting this in place could become more 'real' if the lateral flow tests identified more positive cases.

AGREED

That the Chief Executive, Human Resources and Pay Roll Manager, Environmental Services Manager and the Chief Executive of Pendle Leisure Trust meet to discuss the implications of lateral flow testing further.

**Dean Langton/
Jane McDonnell/
David Walker/
Alison Goode**

494. IT UPDATE

A definite date for the delivery of laptops was still awaited. However, if there was the opportunity to take delivery of a small number of laptops this would be taken.

SCMT were reminded to let Marie Mason know of any issues with the proposed roll out plan for the laptops by the end of next week.

PART 2

495. TIMETABLE OF REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The timetable for future meetings was submitted for consideration in conjunction with the Policy and Resources Work Programme and amended.

After next week future meetings of SCMT would be hold fortnightly.

AGREED

That items for future meetings be forwarded to Jane Watson.

**All Service Managers/
Jane Watson**

496. TREE RISK – BENEFIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

SCMT considered a report on the adoption of a Tree Risk-Benefit Management Plan.

The Council owned a lot of land throughout the Borough with an ageing tree population that was in close proximity to high value targets such as roads, footpaths and properties. In order to address the issue of managing the Council's tree stock and prevention of litigation a Tree Risk Management Plan had been prepared.

The Plan included an action plan with six actions identified; four of which had been actioned, one had been deleted and last one was outstanding (the mapping of veteran trees).

Details of the funding needed to address the various issues referred to in the report was discussed.

AGREED

(1) That the Tree Risk – Benefit Management Plan be adopted.

Lee Johnson

(2) That savings be found from within existing budgets in Parks to assist with the funding required. **Lee Johnson**

(3) That £7,000 be allocated from the Risk Management Budget to cover specialist tree inspections. **David Walker**

497. CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH WORK PLAN 2020/21 AND 2021/22

The Corporate Director submitted a report on progress with the research and consultation projects contained within the Work Plan for 2020/21 along with the proposed Work Plan for 2021/22.

It was suggested that the impact of Covid 19 be included in both the Business Survey and the Life in Pendle Survey and a further Staff Survey be added to the Plan for 2021/22.

AGREED

(1) That progress with the 2020/21 Work Plan be noted.

(2) That the suggestions referred to above be included in the Plan and any further suggestions be forwarded to Marie Mason by 8th February, 2021. **All Service Heads/
Marie Mason**

(3) That the updated Consultation and Research Work Plan for 2021/22 be submitted to Management Team on 16th February, 2021. **Marie Mason/
Jane Watson**