

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET – 20 JULY 2020
SUBJECT:	Croydon Together: Update on our ongoing response to Covid-19
LEAD OFFICER:	Jo Negrini, Head of Paid Service
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Tony Newman, Leader of the Council
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on a global scale, including the UK and Croydon. Our response has been wide ranging, as will the recovery, covering all aspects of the Corporate Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives: through our public health messaging, adult social care and support for vulnerable residents• Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential: through our support for schools and families, particularly the most vulnerable• Business moves here and invests, our existing businesses grow: by paying government grants and support with business rates	
FINANCIAL IMPACT: There are no direct financial impacts arising from this report, which is for information. However, as previously reported and covered in separate reports on this agenda, Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the Council's financial position.	
KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: N/A	
1. RECOMMENDATIONS 1.1. That the Cabinet note the report and the activities of the Council working with partners to respond to the impacts of Covid-19 across Croydon	

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report follows previous reports to Cabinet on 11 May and 8 June, detailing the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic was having in Croydon, and how the Council and our partners were responding to support residents and businesses across the borough.
- 2.2 Since the previous report, it is positive to note that the infection rate has reduced significantly. Focus has therefore shifted in earnest to supporting Croydon to reopen safely as part of the national roadmap, and to ensure that effective control plans are in place should there be any localised outbreak.

- 2.3 This report provides updates on key activities, including support for town and district centres to reopen safely, advice and guidance for businesses to operate safely. The report also provides an update on support for vulnerable people, following the government announcement that shielding will stop at the end of July.
- 2.4 Local authorities are required to develop local outbreak control plans and this report provides a summary of the approach at Croydon.
- 2.5 Covid-19 has had a significant financial impact on local government. Whilst this report makes reference to this issue, it is covered by a separate report on this agenda.

3. LOCAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Cabinet meeting has received regular comprehensive reports providing updates on the response to the Covid-19 virus. These reports provided background information on the pandemic, including the latest information on infections across the UK and locally in Croydon.
- 3.2 The June report outlined that national data appeared to suggest that the country had passed the 'peak' of the pandemic, with infection levels and deaths reducing consistently. This downward trend has continued throughout June.
- 3.3 In the two week period from 15-28 June, there were only 16 new cases of Covid-19 reported in Croydon. None of these cases were in Croydon Hospital and none were classified as new outbreaks (where there is a case in a care home, schools, workplace or homeless accommodation).
- 3.4 However, as the Director of Public Health has advised, this is a very dangerous stage of the pandemic. The virus is still circulating, but through social distancing we have reduced the infection levels. It is vital that residents and businesses continue to follow guidance carefully and protect themselves and others.

4. CROYDON RESPONSE - UPDATE

- 4.1 This section of the report provides brief updates on the key elements of the Croydon response. Croydon Council and partners within the Local Strategic Partnership (which is chaired by the Leader of the Council), have worked together to respond to the impact of Covid-19 in Croydon.
- 4.2 The Council's emergency response structure remain in place, including Gold and Coordination and Contingency Planning groups. The Borough Emergency Control Centre continues to support these structures, collecting, collating and disseminating information to support quick and informed decisions and to / from London structures. Dashboards are produced on a daily basis within the latest information across a range of indicators.

- 4.3 The Leader of the Council has continued to chair the Local Strategic Partnership, which as the infection levels have reduced has moved to fortnightly meetings.
- 4.4 As the government has eased lockdown restrictions, we are moving from the emergency response to the recovery phase (whilst still ensuring that vulnerable residents are fully supported). This has included a strong focus on reopening our town and district centres safely, and supporting those that have been financially impacted by Covid-19.

Supporting the safe reopening of our town and district centres

- 4.5 In line with Government guidelines, a number of non-essential retail outlets began opening from the 15 June with a further wave of openings of food service providers, pubs, bars and hotels opening from the 4 July. To prepare for this, Croydon Council worked in a cross-disciplinary way with a range of external partners to ensure the town and district centres are prepared and ready to welcome this reactivation in a safe and managed way.
- 4.6 For the town centre, weekly coordination meetings are held between key Council officers, the local Business Improvement District and the Police. Reporting into this group are wider meetings held with key stakeholders and partners, including Transport for London, Govia Thameslink Railways and other members of the Police.
- 4.7 Weekly coordination meetings are also held for the borough's district centres and high streets. As this area coverage is so wide, external partners are not invited to this meeting at the current time but meetings held with the BIDs, business and community networks and groups and ward members are fed into the discussions.
- 4.8 A weekly meeting focussed on licensing and enforcement also takes place to review the specific issues around supporting and enforcing businesses to follow the government's guidance; and to operate in a safe way, advised by the Police.
- 4.9 Updates on these activation plans are provided to the Council's Senior Leadership Team on a weekly basis with escalation of any key issues to the Council's Gold Coordination Group.
- 4.10 Through early consultation with our partners, the key themes for the activation plan were agreed as follows:
- Intelligence Gathering
 - Travel & Transport
 - Social Distancing Arrangements
 - Communications & Signage
 - PPE
 - Business Support
 - Street Cleansing & Waste Removal
 - Culture, Museum & Libraries
 - Community Safety

- 4.11 A number of work streams sit underneath these themes with clear ownership and timelines of each action established. A number of key activities have been undertaken to prepare for each stage of the re-openings, including analysis of the town centre and each district centre to identify key areas of concern or issues to be addressed.
- 4.12 We continue to work with the BIDs, local business networks and ward members to liaise with the stores open and planning to reopen to advise them on their roles and responsibilities with managing the government guidance on social distancing.
- 4.13 Meetings were held with transport providers (Transport for London; Govia Thameslink) to map out the measures needed to manage ingress and egress points to the town centre and district centres. This included looking at: potential re-routing of buses/trams around and within the town/district centre areas; possible closure of bus stops where social distancing will be challenging; speaking to GTR to understand the management of the pedestrian movements coming from/to East Croydon station; speaking to TfL about the management of the pedestrian movements coming from/to West Croydon Overground station; closure of some traffic lanes and movement of bus lanes to accommodate pavement widening. We are coordinating a communications campaign to share the key messages around social distancing with the messaging coming from TfL which will include a focus around our public transport nodes.
- 4.14 We have mapped the pedestrian routes between public transport nodes and 'anchor' stores to develop a routing and signposting strategy to manage pedestrian flow. This included understanding where ASB hotspots currently are/have the potential to be to ensure we can route pedestrian flows to avoid these.
- 4.15 The government guidance encourages people to walk or cycle wherever possible. This reduces the pressure on public transport and traffic, whilst also offering health benefits from exercise. We are therefore ensuring there is sufficient cycling access and cycle parking within and around the town centre to encourage more cycle access.
- 4.16 We know that some people will still travel by car, and we have therefore modelled traffic flow and potential congestion hotspots to consider traffic management interventions. This includes working with our construction logistics traffic management process to monitor vehicle access to construction sites and key gateway entry /exit points within the town centre at times of heavy traffic. We are reviewing parking capacity across the town centre in light of the need to reduce some on-street parking to make room for pedestrians.
- 4.17 We are working with Croydon BID and Croydon Voluntary Action to explore the opportunity to mobilise a team of volunteers to act as 'hosts' in the town centre (following the Olympic games makers model) to support the social distancing messages. This will give added assurance that people can visit the town centre safely.
- 4.18 Strong communications and engagement with businesses has been, and continues to be, critical. We have utilised regular Business newsletters to communicate and signpost to emerging government guidance and help

businesses understand what changes they need to implement for safe opening and operation. In relation to licensed premises, Pubwatch meetings were held to explore specific issues for public houses reopening safely.

- 4.19 With the Covid-19 situation still unfolding, weekly monitoring of these action plans takes place through the Coordination Group to ensure flexibility and adaptability of the key work streams should government guidance change over the weeks to come. Feedback will be used to identify any critical areas where levels of support may need to be reviewed

Adult services and care homes

- 4.20 Care homes remain a key focus in our pandemic response, whose vulnerable residents are at greater risk if they contract Covid-19. Croydon has the largest care home market in London, with 230 care providers, 126 care homes (63 of whom support older people).
- 4.21 Croydon's care homes, while under significant pressure are responding well in partnership with the council and health. Gold has received daily updates on the demand for beds, the capacity within the sector and the impact of Covid-19 on care homes (including numbers of suspected cases). Whilst it is positive that many care homes have told us that they have felt supported by the council, the scale of difficulties our care homes continue to face cannot be underestimated, particularly the emotional impact on families and care home staff where residents have lost their lives.
- 4.22 The council continues to support care homes closely to reduce infection rates and help them cope with the impact of the pandemic. This involves daily monitoring of key data reported by homes and regular calls to homes to see where extra support may be needed.
- 4.23 It is positive that throughout June we have seen a continued decline in both the number of homes reporting Covid-19 and the number of residents reported to have Covid-19 symptoms. This continues to be monitored closely, alongside new data around testing.
- 4.24 Croydon's system wide care homes support plan (linked to below) was submitted to central government on 29 May and outlines all the actions we have been taking across the partnership in Croydon to support our care homes.
- <https://lbc-app-w-corpwebsite-p.azurewebsites.net/adult-health-and-social-care/care-homes-and-housing/care-homes-support-plan>
- 4.25 Two representatives from Croydon's care homes attend a weekly strategy group with council and health leads to provide helpful feedback challenge on the impact our support is having, and what more we need to do.
- 4.26 In order to support providers with the financial impact of the pandemic the Council has moved to paying 4 weeks in advance and given significant provider sustainability payment as upfront support to help care homes with Covid-19 related costs. In addition to this, the commissioning team have distributed over £2m of funding to our social care providers from central government (the Infection Control Fund).

- 4.27 A key area of work during the pandemic has been supporting our most vulnerable residents, including those that have been encouraged to shield and stay home at all times. The number of shielded residents in Croydon has increased from 11,616 in May to 14,814 as of 26 June (a 27.5% increase). The Council has used a variety of communication tools to contact them, including letters and written advice sent directly, telephone and text to contact everyone that is identified as needing to shield to confirm what support they require.
- 4.28 Support for vulnerable residents has been a partnership activity, with a network of voluntary and community groups across Croydon providing food, other essential supplies, shopping and befriending. The latter has been particularly important for residents that whose independence has been impacted by the pandemic.
- 4.29 The Government is providing food parcels to shielded residents direct from wholesalers. As of 26 June, there were 2,518 residents in Croydon that were registered as shielding and were unable to access supplies.
- 4.30 The Government has announced that shielding will end on 31 July and with it the food parcel service. At this point residents will be free to leave their homes and therefore secure their own supplies. Many residents, however, will be fearful having shielded for such a long time. We are therefore working closely with voluntary and community sector to prepare for this change, and prioritise support to the most vulnerable. Referrals will be made to Gateway services to ensure that residents have the full financial support they are entitled to as well, so that they can maintain their independence.

Gateway Services

- 4.31 All three existing Food Stops, a partnership between the Council, VCS and faith sector organisations, have continued to operate throughout Covid-19; at The Family Centre in New Addington, St Francis Church in Selsdon and Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre in Thornton Heath. A new Food Stop was launched in April at Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church (OLLBC) and they have each tweaked their service delivery in line with guidance such as implementing social distancing measures or introducing a delivery service. All Food Stops are going over and above, supporting over 240 households per week during the pandemic, and our thanks go to all the staff and volunteers providing these services.
- 4.32 The Council continues to coordinate food deliveries from FareShare. We have scaled up from our pre-Covid-19 service of 2.3 tonnes of food coming in to Croydon per week via two existing Local Collection Points to 6.3 tonnes of food coming in each week via four Local Collection Points.

Registrars and bereavement services.

- 4.33 The number of funerals has reduced significantly from the peak week of 11 May where the crematorium was operating at 97%. We are currently operating at 44% capacity which is slightly higher than usual for the time of year.
- 4.34 Both Local Mortality Group and Coronal Mortality Group have changed

frequency to fortnightly in line with the Excess Deaths Management Groups. Again frequency can be increased immediately as and when the need arises.

- 4.35 Risk assessments and plan has been agreed to make the Registrars section of the Town Hall safe and operate in accordance with government guidelines for the recommencement of birth registrations and notices of marriage. These resumed from 6 July and plans are in place to clear the backlog of approximately 1,200 unregistered births within the Borough over a 12 week period. The same approach is being undertaken to prepare for wedding ceremonies and to increase the number of mourners at funerals.

Access Croydon and Contact Centre

- 4.36 Access Croydon staff have been redeployed, including to the contact centre, where improved technology has enabled staff to receive calls whilst working from home seven days a week.
- 4.37 A dedicated Covid hotline and email contact has been established to assist with urgent enquiries. Over 3,800 contacts from have been received with an average waiting time of only 13 seconds, and 99% of calls answered. Calls to the general contact centre for June are at the same levels as the previous year.

Updated figures for Enablement:

- 4.38 In response to these areas of demand we have refocused our resources to offer fast turnaround on the impacts of Covid-19 on residents. From 23 March to 24 June, we have:
- Tripled our resource to meet new requests for free school meals. (3,200 assessments in April & May 2020, compared to 502 in same period last year)
 - Doubled our resource to meet the quadrupled demand for food vouchers and amenities. We have provided £47,392 in food vouchers, £8,974 emergency amenities funding, and £99,478 to facilities moves and furniture in new homes.
 - Opened our welfare rights hotline from 3 part days to 5 full days a week. Since doing this they have received 1,043 requests for support.
 - Provided advice and guidance to residents on the options available to them to protect their jobs/income/homes during lockdown. Our discretionary support team have received 2,826 phones calls and emails from residents in need.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- 4.39 The supply of PPE has been a global issue during the pandemic, and subject to significant media coverage. The increased demand for key items such as gloves, face masks and aprons has created problems for suppliers and providers.
- 4.40 The Council has provided advice and guidance on the use of PPE, in accordance with the government guidelines. This has included guidance for our own staff who continue to operate front line services, and key partners and providers (e.g. care homes).

- 4.41 A dedicated PPE team is in place to coordinate orders, secure PPE supplies and distribute stock. The team are also responding to enquiries, offers of donations (e.g. from local businesses) and requests for emergency supplies from providers such as care homes via a dedicated inbox.
- 4.42 The council continues to have sufficient PPE stocks to meet the needs of council staff and despite significant demand at no stage have services been impacted by a lack of PPE. Additional stocks of face masks have also been sourced for staff who are returning to work and planning to commute using public transport.
- 4.43 In addition, and where required, emergency PPE supplies have also been provided 7 days a week to suppliers at no cost (including care homes, home care providers, children's residential providers & supported living providers), particularly in adult services. As at 22 June, 307 emergency PPE supply packs had been given to providers (129 providers in total).
- 4.44 We have also supported over 100 providers to purchase larger stocks of PPE through a pan London procurement route.
- 4.45 In preparation for schools opening more widely in June the council also provided schools with packs of PPE essentials, to use in line with government guidance for education settings.

Business and supplier support

- 4.46 The Council has been working with our contracted suppliers during the Covid-19 outbreak to ensure services and supplies to the Council and people of Croydon are maintained, and that provider failure is avoided where possible. We established a Supplier Relief Framework to respond to requests from providers and to identify the support available according to the individual circumstances of the provider and nature of the service. In total we have supported 51 providers through the Framework, and continue to work with those providers to transition out of the emergency response phase and review service delivery over the coming year.
- 4.47 As the lock-down restrictions have started to ease, we have been supporting local businesses by providing information and guidance on sourcing PPE on our Value Croydon website, including tips on what to look out for when buying PPE, and how to assess their requirements

COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plans

- 4.48 With the relaxation of national lockdown restrictions and the implementation of the Government Test and Trace Programme, councils are required to implement measures to prevent, identify and contain COVID-19 outbreaks.
- 4.49 These local measures will build on existing local health protection plans and governance arrangements. The Director of Public Health is responsible for defining the measures and producing Outbreak Control plans but the formulation and delivery of these plans requires effective partnership work and stakeholder engagement.

- 4.50 The Test and Trace Programme is based on the premise that with lower infection rates and increased testing capacity, testing people with symptoms and tracing their contacts is an appropriate way to contain coronavirus without the need for such stringent population wide lockdown restrictions
- 4.51 The Test and Trace service includes four functions to control the virus: test, trace, contain and enable. People with symptoms will be encouraged to contact the NHS Track and Trace Service and will be sent a home test kit. If the test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 7 days. They will also be asked to provide details of significant contacts they have had; these contacts will also be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Local outbreaks will be managed by Public Health England in partnership with Local Authorities.

Croydon's Local Outbreak Control Plan

- 4.52 The purpose of Croydon's Outbreak Control plan is to save lives and reduce health inequalities by limiting the spread of infection in people living and working in Croydon from COVID-19.
- 4.53 The specific objectives of the Croydon Outbreak Control Plan are:
- **Governance:** Provide multi-agency oversight and accountability across Croydon through the appropriate governance structure for the development and delivery of this Outbreak plan.
 - **Outbreak management:** Support settings including care homes, schools and high-risk locations to prevent infection and to manage an outbreak to stop onward spread and to mitigate the consequences
 - **Vulnerable people:** To help people in our communities who are most vulnerable to protect themselves from infection and to enabling them self-isolation when required.
 - **Communications and engagement:** Build public confidence and trust in the track and trace approach and the system's ability to respond appropriately and respectfully to outbreaks of Covid-19.
 - **Data and intelligence.** To provide assurance that we can identify cases, outbreaks and hotspots rapidly, monitor their management, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and meet local, regional and national reporting requirements. Further to understand the impact on different communities especially those who are at higher risk.
 - **Testing** – To enable those that most need it to access testing through the national offer and the development of a local approach that complements this.
 - **Contact tracing** – to supplement the national contact tracing system with local support and capacity drawing on knowledge of our local population.
- 4.54 A local multi-agency Covid-19 Health Protection Board and a public facing Covid-19 Engagement Board have been established to oversee the delivery of the Local Authority Outbreak Control responsibilities.
- 4.55 In order to ensure the Council and its partners are prepared to manage any local outbreaks, they have been involved in scenario planning exercises. These have initially focused on outbreaks in Care Homes and Schools and in subsequent weeks will focus on other high risk locations. The aim of scenario planning is to identify the key steps, actions, roles and responsibilities in preventing and managing an outbreak.

- 4.56 This has led to the development of locally agreed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and flowcharts detailing the steps that will be taken in an outbreak situation.
- 4.57 The key message from the Director of Public Health continues to the importance of good hygiene practices to continue to minimise the risk of Covid-19. Hand washing and social distancing remain key tools in tackling the pandemic.

Travel and transport

- 4.58 Croydon Council responded quickly to the Covid-19 Pandemic with an initial programme of measures implemented on streets in Croydon which included:
- **Low Traffic Streets:** Creating low traffic streets by stopping through traffic on some roads. Access is maintained for residents, deliveries and other essential journeys. This is designed to reduce traffic making it safer for residents to use the road near their homes while maintaining social distancing. Cyclists are exempt from the temporary closures giving them access to quieter streets.
 - **Expanded footways:** Creating more temporary footway space at narrow pinch points giving pedestrians and cyclists more space to help keep a social distance. This involves sections of the carriageway or on-street parking bays being cordoned off to provide more space for pedestrians and or cyclists.
 - **Speed awareness:** New signs reminding drivers to watch their speed put up in streets across the Borough.
- 4.59 At the same time a larger programme was developed (building on the first and responding to TfL's Streetspace Plan for London). The urgency associated with the bidding process for the TfL scheme meant that the Croydon bids totalling £1,720,000 had to be agreed under authority delegated to the Executive Director, Place.
- 4.60 The resulting programme looked to create cycling and walking routes away from the busiest street corridors, where possible. On these busy corridors, the competition for space is greatest. It is also where our district and local centres tend to sit and where space to facilitate social distancing within these centres is a priority. The resulting Programme includes:
- Semi-segregated cycle lanes on the London Road from Thornton Heath Pond to Handcroft Road (supported by a 20mph limit), with a cycle and pedestrian 'bypass' of the very busy southern end of London Road via a Low Traffic Neighbourhood to be achieved by closures (allowing cycle permeability) of Handcroft Road and Parsons Mead.
 - Linked Low Traffic Neighbourhoods from the north east of the Borough (Crystal Palace and South Norwood) to create quieter walking and cycling corridors into the Town Centre. These are to be largely created by means of street closures which allow cycle permeability, but at Auckland Road and Davidson Road they would also permit buses to pass.
 - Semi segregated cycle lanes along much of the Brighton Road from Purley towards the Croydon Town Centre. The proposals include retaining the bus lanes but these operating 24/7, and the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

- More social distancing space at local shopping parades

4.61 At the time of drafting this £310,000 and had been awarded to Croydon for the majority of the first phase programme and a decision is still awaited regarding the larger second programme and funding request.

5 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Covid-19 has created significant financial pressures for local government, with increased expenditure and reduction in income. The resources required to support our pandemic response has also caused delay in delivering savings within the 2020/21 budget.

5.2 Whilst the Government has provided additional grant funding to local authorities, the LGA has indicated that, nationally, the estimated financial impact is four or five times the amounts committed by government so far. As such, Croydon's allocation within this does not cover the anticipated financial impact on the Council.

5.3 The financial impact of Covid-19 is set out fully in a separate report to this meeting.

5.4 The Council continues to maintain and manage a dedicated Covid-19 risk register, with regular reports to Gold to ensure the risks are well managed and mitigating actions is taken

Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law makes the following comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance.

6.2 The Coronavirus Act 2020 is the government's main legislative change in response to the pandemic. Most of its provisions came into effect on 25 March 2020 but detailed further legislation in the form of statutory instruments and government guidance have been issued since that date and continue to be published. The Act has temporarily modified duties and powers relating to social care, mental health, registration of deaths, inquests, the regulation of investigatory powers, gatherings events and premises, the postponement of elections, virtual local authority meetings and protection from eviction. Other changes to existing legislation and statutory guidance continue to be monitored by the legal service as the lock down is eased and businesses begin to re-open.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 Covid-19 has had a very direct impact on people across Croydon, including staff.
- 7.2 As well as our responsibilities to residents, we have a duty of care to all staff. The Council has continued to ensure that staff have the guidance and equipment they need to carry out their work safely. This includes PPE.
- 7.3 Since 1 July, the Council has increased the staff operating from Bernard Wetherill House. Every member of staff completed a risk assessment with their line manager to identify those that needed, or would benefit from, returning to the office for work. The building has been redesigned with social distancing, enhanced cleaning and one way systems to minimize risks and support staff safety and wellbeing.
- 7.4 It is anticipated, however, that most staff will continue to work remotely wherever they can, and in line with Government guidance.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (the Equality Duty) in designing policies and planning / delivering services.
- 8.2 The three aims of the Equality Duty are to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization
 - Advance equality of opportunity
 - Foster good community relations between people who share any of the defined Protected Characteristics and those who do not.
- 8.3 Whilst there is direct and some indirect inequalities emerging in the wider community because of Covid-19, there are none arising from the content of this update report.
- 8.4 As set out in the previous Cabinet reports, the impact of the virus is far reaching. The combined and unprecedented impact on the local economy, on both businesses and the workforce, will continue to exacerbate inequalities in some areas, with some groups disproportionately impacted for the short, medium and long term. Data is increasingly emerging highlighting that younger people are more likely to experience reduced earnings or increased unemployment and furlough due to Covid-19.
- 8.5 Significant actions have been taken to safeguard vulnerable residents and certain population groups. In addition, the new Sustainable Croydon Economic Renewal Board has equality and inclusion as a core element of its remit.
- 8.6 The Government commissioned a review, led by the NHS and Public Health England regarding the disproportionate impact on BAME residents. It is apparent that the reason for the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME

residents is the underlying inequalities within our communities. The Council remains committed to tackling inequality. We are in the process of undertaking public engagement and consultation to agree renewed equality objectives for Croydon. We are also working with partners, with a joint equality and inclusion group being established by the Local Strategic Partnership.

Approved by Barbara Grant on behalf of Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 9.1 There has been a noticeable improvement in air quality and pollution levels across Croydon (as well as London, UK and globally). This provides an opportunity to take action in order to maintain the improved environment.
- 9.2 The Council has introduced several low traffic initiatives that temporarily reallocate road space to better reflect the current use patterns and to create safer spaces for walking and cycling. These initiatives included Healthy streets, which closed streets prone to rat running and excessive speeds, and Exercise zones, with closures for part of the day to help residents enjoy traffic free environments. Further details are set out in the report.
- 9.3 The Croydon Commission for Climate Change has held its first meeting and at the request of the Leader of the Council, will focus its attention on short and medium term actions over the next 3 years.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 10.1 The police have continued to report a reduction in many crime rates during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 10.2 Domestic abuse (physical and non-physical) and sexual violence has remained a key concern during the pandemic. The lockdown restrictions, limiting opportunities for people to leave their home also increased the risk that it is harder for victims to report crimes or request help.
- 10.3 The FJC service has continued to be delivered throughout the lockdown. The service expanded to offer 7 days a week provision, to maximize the opportunity for anyone to contact them for support.
- 10.3 The Council has worked with partners and issued regular communications to raise awareness of the services available.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 11.1 This report is for information only.

12. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 This report is for information only. Therefore there are no options to consider.

13. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

13.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

NO

15.2 The Director of Policy & Partnership advises that this report provides updates only, with no decisions that impact on data.

Approved by: Gavin Handford, Director of Policy & Partnership

CONTACT OFFICER:	Gavin Handford, Director of Policy & Partnership
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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:	None
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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None
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