

Report to COUNCIL

Oldham's COVID-19 Response - Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for COVID-19 Recovery

Officer Contact:

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24.03.2021

Reason for Decision

This report provides an update on how the Council and its partners continue to monitor and manage the impact of COVID-19 in Oldham.

Executive Summary

COVID-19 is still circulating across the UK and we continue to see new cases in Oldham every day. This report summarises our activity, demonstrating how we will collectively manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 across our communities.

Recommendations

To note the content of the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 At the end of 2020, a new and more transmissible variant of COVID-19 (B.1.1.7) began to spread very quickly across the UK, becoming the dominant strain. As a consequence, the B.1.1.7 variant led to further surges in cases, hospitalisations and deaths.
- 1.2 The Government responded by reintroducing the Stay at Home order first in the regions most affected and then nationally across England. The Devolved Administrations took similar approaches.
- 1.3 On 2nd December, UK regulators granted emergency-use authorization to a vaccine from drug firms Pfizer and BioNTech. This was followed the same month by authorisation for use of the AstraZeneca vaccine developed by Oxford University and in January 2021, the Moderna vaccine.
- 1.4 In January 2021 vaccination roll-out began – and the Government’s ambition to offer everyone in JCVI cohorts 1 to 4 at least one dose of the vaccine by 15 February was met two days early.
- 1.5 On 19 February, over 17.2 million people had already received their first vaccine dose and 604,885 people had also received their second dose across the UK. Everyone will be offered their second dose no more than 12 weeks after their first dose; so those in JCVI cohorts 1 to 4 who received their first dose by mid-February, will be invited for their second dose by mid-May.
- 1.6 Cases, hospitalisations and deaths have fallen since lockdown started. Between 6 and 12 February, 1 in 115 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in England compared to a peak between 3 and 9 January when 1 in 50 tested positive for the virus.
- 1.7 In March, the NHS began to offer vaccinations to people aged 60 – 64 years of age; those aged 50 and over and people with underlying health conditions. The aim is to give a first dose of the vaccine by 15 April, and a second dose by mid-July 2021. Phase 2 of the roll-out is scheduled from mid-April and aims to offer everybody aged 18 and over a first dose of the vaccine by 31 July.
- 1.8 March has also seen the Government issue its roadmap out of lockdown – made possible by the success of the vaccination programme. It details a cautious approach in order to avoid a surge in cases which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS and claim more lives before people have the chance to take a vaccine. Before taking each step, the Government will review the latest data on the impact of the previous step against four tests. The tests are:
1. The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
 2. Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated

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3. Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS
 4. Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern
- 1.9 The easing of restrictions in England began on the 8th March with measures including the return of students to schools and colleges and the relaxation of restrictions on the number of people who can meet outside.

2 **COVID-19 in Oldham**

2.1 As of the 8th March 2021 there has been 21,823 cases of COVID-19 identified in Oldham, the weekly infection rates are currently running at around 82 cases per 100,000 people.

2.2 Over the past 28 days (up to 19th February), 42,833 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Oldham. This includes 22,951 in Pillar 1 (tests undertaken through hospital and Public Health England laboratories) and 19,882 in Pillar 2 (commercial labs that process most of the at-home and community tests). Out of the 42,833 tests undertaken, 2,388 people tested positive (384 in Pillar 1 and 2,004 in Pillar 2). There have been 688 Covid-19 related deaths in Oldham (up to 19th February).

3.0 **Oldham's COVID-19 Response Updates**

3.1 For the purposes of this report, Oldham's response has been broken down into four key themes: Test and Trace, Vaccination, Enforcement and Compliance, and Community Engagement and Communications.

4.0 **Test and Trace**

4.1 **Community Testing** On the 18th January 2021, Oldham commenced targeted testing at scale for those that could not work from home, setting up 4 large tests sites for twice weekly routine testing. This utilises lateral flow devices with rapid results in approximately 30 minutes ensuring that positive cases are identified at the earliest opportunity. This is connected into the national contact tracing systems provision an opportunity for positive cases and their contacts to isolate and break the chain of transmission at the earliest point.

4.2 This programme of work has now been extended until the end of June 2021, and we are moving towards a different model to significantly increase the number of testing sites at smaller venues that are better suited to meet the needs of residents. By having more sites spread across the borough, residents and those visiting Oldham for work, education or to see a loved one in a Care Home, will have greater choice and be able to access testing closer to home.

4.3 In addition to testing sites, an outreach testing and training provision ensures that testing can be offered at large settings such as workplaces or community venues. Through these arrangements we are building a network of settings that can provide training in a sustainable model going forward. The settings are trained to be competent in basic infection, prevention and control, registering as a test site, registration for those attending, talking people through a self-swab, undertaking the analysis, interpreting the results and uploading of results to the national portal.

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- 4.4 **Symptomatic testing** the network of local test sites (LTS) operated by NHS Test and Trace continue to operate to provide testing to people with coronavirus symptoms. Three LTS are currently in operation and plans underway to place a 4th site in Failsworth. The 3 static sites are situated in:
- Southgate Street Car Park, Centre of Oldham OL1 1DN
 - Peel Street in Chadderton, OL9 9JX
 - Honeywell Centre, Hadfield Street. Hathershaw, OL8 3BP
- 4.5 Although there is a national booking portal, Oldham continues to work with DHSC to make the process as flexible as possible for those residents to ensure that lack of digital access does not present a barrier to being able to access testing.
- 4.6 In addition to the static sites, we have utilised mobile testing units (MTU) around the borough to ensure that wards with greatest travel distance or barriers in accessing a LTS have access to the MTU on a rotation basis. Where data identifies areas of high transmission or low testing uptake, MTUs have been strategically placed in these areas
- 4.7 From the beginning of July 2020, Oldham Council and Clinical Commissioning Group commissioned a dedicated testing service to provide local testing from a clinical provider, ensuring that our local model meets the needs of the residents and core service, and is flexible to changes in demand.
- 4.8 The commissioned service has been providing routine asymptomatic PCR testing for health and social care staff, symptomatic testing for those working for Oldham Cares and staff providing system resilience when there are surges in demand. In addition to this, the commissioned service has provided pre-surgery testing and domiciliary support to a small number of residents that are unable to attend a test site or unable to undertake a self-swab though a home test/ postal kit.
- 4.9 **Contact Tracing and the Local Tracing Partnership (tier2):** When an individual test positive for COVID-19 they were first notified by text or email instructing them to isolate. The national contact tracing tier 2 team receive information about all positive cases and attempt to contact to ensure that isolation requirements are understood and to acquire a list of contacts that the positive case has been in contact with 2 days prior to symptom onset (or test date if there were no symptoms). If after 48hours, the national team have failed to make contact or been unable to acquire the contacts, the cases are securely passed to the Local Authority. Oldham Council only receives details of cases who are Oldham residents.
- 4.10 Trained contact tracers have made significant progress in making contact with residents that the national team have been unable to contact. Where required bilingual contact tracers are available. The phone call includes instruction to isolate and asks for information of contacts, but in addition to this Oldham staff use this call as an opportunity to check if individuals have any support needs such as food deliveries or prescription collections for those without a local support network. In addition to this the team are also able to connect individuals into isolation payments for those that are eligible.
- 4.11 The team prioritises contact tracing for any cases that has been identified as a variant of concern and will escalate these cases immediately to the director of public health.

4.12 The GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub (GM ITCH) serves as a resilience hub to support surges in demand that exceed local capacity utilising expertise and capacity from the Greater Manchester Fire and rescue service.

4.13 As part of the national test and trace service, contact tracing which involves complex settings, groups or individuals requiring local knowledge will be automatically passed to the GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub (GM ICTH). This complex contact tracing is referred to as tier 1 and is locally lead. Cases that relate to an Oldham setting are passed to the Local Authority daily for contact tracing that can commence without delay. The notifications are received through the Single Point of Contact (established within the Oldham Public Health team). The team have developed a standard operating procedure that details escalation routes and key officers for each of the specific settings identified. This function of a SPOC also serves to escalate notifications to GM, particularly those that are across geographical boundaries within Greater Manchester.

5.0 Vaccination

5.1 The original Government plan included a vaccination programme comprising 1) mass vaccination sites run by Regional NHS Teams and 2) local sites run by Primary Care Networks under nationally agreed Directly Enhanced Service contracts.

5.2 The national rollout plan was executed at rapid pace and the priority for rollout was set nationally by the JCVI, which advises that the first priorities for the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be the prevention of mortality and the maintenance of the health and social care systems. As the risk of mortality from COVID-19 increases with age, prioritisation is primarily based on age. The order of priority for each group in the population corresponds with data on the number of individuals who would need to be vaccinated to prevent one death, estimated from UK data obtained from March to June 2020.

- all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- all those 75 years of age and over
- all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
- all those 65 years of age and over
- all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- all those 60 years of age and over
- all those 55 years of age and over
- all those 50 years of age and over

5.3 Achieving a high coverage across all population groups will contribute to reducing COVID-19 risks in the population and the associated inequalities.

5.4 In terms of mass vaccination centres, this is organized at Greater Manchester level and is located at the Etihad Stadium. Uptake by Oldham residents of the Etihad facility is only just starting to become known to the Oldham system as this is a nationally run programme. Usage by Primary Care Network is as follows: South Central: 4.39% of people from this area have had their vaccine at the Etihad facility

- North Central: 4.45%
- West: 9.04%
- South: 14.92%
- North: 9.06%
- East: 18.86%

- 5.5 The Oldham vaccination programme was set up as operational from 6 sites within the five Primary Care Networks. It was first launched on 14 December 2020 in Glodwick in South Central PCN followed later that week in North PCN (Royton Health & Wellbeing Centre) and West PCN (CH Medical), then between Christmas and New Year at South PCN (Failsworth) and then in January at North Central PCN (ICC Building) and then East PCN (Moorside Medical Centre).
- 5.6 During the course of February and early March additional ‘pop-up’ clinics have also been held at Greengate Street Mosque, the EIC Centre and Millennium Centre all of which have been targeted at encouraging greater levels of update in our BAME communities.
- 5.7 In terms of uptake figures progress, the following table (Table 1) shows the key headlines. In summary, so far more than 76,000 vaccines have been administered – more than 90% taken up by those over 80 years old; more than 90% by those over 75 years of age; around 80% by those over 70 years of age and clinical extremely vulnerable; and around 85% of those over 65 years of age.

Table 1: Number of Vaccines by Cohort

Cohort ID	Cohort Description	Registered Po..	Oldham Regis..	% of 1st dose..	Oldham Regis..	% of 2nd dose..
1	Care Home Residents	1,371	1,218	88.84%	6	0.44%
2	80+	8,939	8,296	92.81%	2,050	22.93%
3	75+	7,644	7,145	93.47%	203	2.66%
4	70+ & CEV	21,793	17,280	79.29%	151	0.69%
5	65+	9,934	8,426	84.82%	69	0.69%
6	16-64 UHC	29,621	15,833	53.45%	261	0.88%
7	60+	6,846	3,020	44.11%	67	0.98%
8	55+	9,793	2,679	27.36%	119	1.22%
9	50+	11,316	2,433	21.50%	122	1.08%
10	16-49	94,367	9,713	10.29%	376	0.40%
Other	Non Eligible Population	58,805	242	0.41%	18	0.03%
Grand Total		260,429	76,285	29.29%	3,442	1.32%

- 5.8 Table 2 below shows a break down by Ward across Oldham which shows the lowest uptake for Cohorts 1-6 can be seen in Werneth, Coldhurst and St Mary’s Wards with the highest uptake in Crompton, Saddleworth and Royton Wards.

Table 2: Breakdown by Ward for Cohorts 1-6

Vaccination Uptake By Ward - Cohort 1-6

Ward Name	Population	Vaccinated	% Vacc
Crompton Ward	4,024	3,498	86.90%
Saddleworth South Ward	3,814	3,313	86.90%
Royton North Ward	3,814	3,307	86.70%
Royton South Ward	3,888	3,307	85.10%
Saddleworth North Ward	3,610	3,051	84.50%
Shaw Ward	3,522	2,935	83.30%
Saddleworth West and Lees Ward	3,979	3,225	81.10%
Mossley Ward	2,275	1,793	78.80%
Chadderton Central Ward	3,340	2,462	73.70%
Failsworth East Ward	3,240	2,357	72.70%
Chadderton North Ward	3,373	2,412	71.50%
Failsworth West Ward	3,154	2,241	71.10%
Chadderton South Ward	3,177	2,233	70.30%
St. James' Ward	3,675	2,496	67.90%
Waterhead Ward	4,006	2,522	63.00%
Hollinwood Ward	4,020	2,494	62.00%
Alexandra Ward	4,065	2,395	58.90%
Medlock Vale Ward	4,213	2,360	56.00%
St. Mary's Ward	4,361	2,422	55.50%
Coldhurst Ward	3,787	2,082	55.00%
Werneth Ward	3,971	1,836	46.20%
Total	77,308	54,741	70.81%

5.9 Now we have vaccinated a significant number of our residents, we are starting to clearly see and understand the impact and correlation between deprivation and ethnicity, and this is being looked at in detail by our Equalities Advisory Group. Table 3 below shows the correlation between ethnicity and the Index of Multiple Deprivation and it is clear that uptake rates are higher for every ethnic group in the most more affluent areas.

Table 3: Vaccine Uptake across Ethnicity & IMD

		IMD Decile									
Ethnicity		10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Highest Population	British	89%	87%	85%	83%	79%	76%	76%	72%	69%	68%
	Pakistani	64%	60%	55%	48%	46%	39%	50%	39%	47%	40%
	Any other white backgrou..	92%	85%	86%	76%	69%	57%	60%	50%	49%	44%
	Bangladeshi	46%	69%	45%	47%	48%	51%	49%	50%	48%	47%
	Not stated	87%	83%	86%	68%	61%	52%	61%	55%	45%	60%
	Any other ethnic group	89%	81%	81%	80%	65%	63%	58%	58%	55%	46%
	Null	73%	66%	66%	59%	42%	37%	34%	39%	27%	35%
	Irish	89%	85%	88%	83%	84%	77%	75%	68%	61%	68%
	Indian	84%	67%	79%	81%	84%	76%	84%	68%	71%	75%
	African	75%	64%	86%	40%	53%	51%	41%	42%	44%	38%
	Any other Asian backgrou..	100%	42%	57%	61%	46%	46%	46%	64%	40%	38%
	Caribbean	81%	100%	53%	67%	73%	59%	59%	55%	67%	59%
	White and Black Caribbean	78%	33%	77%	75%	61%	55%	64%	36%	58%	60%
	White and Black African	100%	86%	71%	43%	32%	44%	22%	37%	26%	40%
	Chinese	69%	77%	71%	56%	73%	40%	59%	50%	75%	75%
	Any other mixed backgrou..	100%	73%	43%	50%	31%	50%	45%	43%	35%	33%
Smallest Population	Any other Black backgrou..	88%	64%	71%	33%	43%	19%	60%	24%	24%	32%
	White and Asian	100%	100%	56%	60%	67%	50%	57%	38%	40%	42%

Least Deprived

Most Deprived

5.10 The next phase of rollout will continue to move down the Cohort list and focus on supplementing PCN clinics with additional clinics run in hyper-local community facilities such as Mosques. In addition, as we enter March we are also now starting to administer first as well as second doses.

6.0 **Enforcement and Compliance**

6.1 The Enforcement Team (Environmental Health, Licensing, Community Safety and GMP colleagues) have been working 7 days a week visiting premises, responding to complaints and attending gatherings and other breaches. Fixed penalty notices have been served for breaches of the various regulations together with prohibition notices where appropriate to prevent businesses from continuing the trade when instructed to close as part of the national restrictions.

6.2 The Enforcement and Compliance partnership have also commissioned the provision of COVID marshals who attend locations where there are incidents of heavy footfall such as Dovestones Reservoir and other open spaces where potential social distancing breaches may occur due to sheer numbers. These officers will be linked into the partnership approach for support if more formal activity is required.

6.3 **Support to Business** the Chancellor announced the continuation of business support schemes in the March Budget including:

- extending furlough, until the end of September. The Government will continue to pay 80% of employees' wages for hours they cannot work, employers will however be asked to contribute 10% in July and 20% in August and September respectively,
- paying support for the self-employed also to be extended until September, 600,000 more self-employed people will be eligible for help as access to grants is widened,
- continuing the business rates holiday until the end of June followed by nine months of 66% relief.
- freezing the business rates multiplier in England for 2021/22, saving firms around £600m over the next five years.
- making business restart grants available (in England) of up to £6,000 for non-essential retail businesses and up to £18,000 for hospitality and other sectors
- introducing an additional £425m of discretionary business grant funding for distribution for local authorities, on top the £1.6bn already allocated nationally

Support to Oldham businesses The Council has launched the Discretionary Business Grants for Taxis scheme to help drivers across the borough. The scheme would see eligible drivers receive a one-off payment. It is aimed at hackney carriage and private hire taxi drivers who are licensed by Oldham Council. Under the scheme every taxi driver in Oldham could receive £1,000 to help them get over the impact of coronavirus after Oldham Council agreed a potential funding package of more than £1.3million.

7.0 **Community Engagement and Communications**

- 7.1 Community engagement and communications has been key to our Covid-19 response here in Oldham; in order to ensure our residents and businesses are aware of the restrictions and public health advice, and are also signposted towards the range of support and advice available from the council and our partner organisations
- 7.2 Communications and engagement work has focused on all aspects of our Covid-19 response, including encouraging take-up of the vaccination; signposting towards testing provision; providing public health advice; and publicising support available to residents and businesses. A wide range of communications channels are used to ensure as many people in Oldham as possible, from all communities, are engaged with. This has included out of home (OOH) billboards and digital screens; social media; video; newsletters; communication through the traditional media; leaflets; community television programmes; and direct engagement with communities; as well as our engagement teams going door-to-door in specific areas to speak with residents and deliver important information.
- 7.3 Engagement work has also taken place through a programme of “community conversations” with existing community groups in Oldham. This has enabled us to gain additional insight that has informed engagement and communications activity. A Covid-19 Recovery survey, carried out in February and March 2021, also gained responses from more than 600 residents, who gave their views on how the pandemic affected them, and what our recovery plan as a Council should involve. The responses to this survey are currently being analysed and will inform the next stage of our recovery planning.
- 7.4 A new “We Are Oldham” communications campaign launched in March, encouraging residents to keep following the new Coronavirus restrictions as lockdown is gradually lifted, so we as a borough can recover more quickly from the pandemic. This campaign outlines the steps residents, businesses, the Council and its partners should take to keep Coronavirus rates low as the Government’s roadmap to recovery is rolled out.

8 **Consultation**

- 8.1 N/A

9 **Financial Implications**

General Unringfenced Grants

- 9.1 The Government continues to allocate a range of ringfenced and unringfenced grants to support the Local Government response to COVID-19. The Council has received £23.978m of unringfenced funding including £1.282m as compensation for lost sales, fees and charges income. The Council also anticipates receiving a further £2.824m of unringfenced grant, comprised of two additional tranches of compensation for lost sales, fees and charges income (£1.824m) as well as £1m in relation to the Local Tax Income Support Grant (this £1m will be carried forward into 2021/22 to support the budget, as approved at Council on 4 March 2021). These general grants are available to every Local Authority and the impact of these grants on the overall financial position of the Council has been included in Financial Monitoring reports presented to Cabinet covering the period from month 3 to month 9.

COVID Specific Grants

- 9.2 The Council has been notified of 19 COVID specific grants to support its COVID response. There has been more than one allocation of some of these grants so in total the Council is monitoring 28 individual allocations of funding. The total funding received or notified is £21.588m.

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- 9.3 The highest value grants received are:
- Control Outbreak Management Fund - £6.125m (from six allocations)
 - Infection Control Grant - £4.592m (from two allocations)
 - Hardship Fund Grant - £3.019m
 - COVID Winter Grant - £0.975m
 - Test and Trace Support Payments - £0.866m

The Council will maximise the use of the grant and if possible, carry forward resources into 2021/22.

- 9.4 Furthermore, the Council has, and continues to receive contributions from the NHS via Oldham CCG (as prescribed in NHS Guidance) to support Adult Social Care provision including hospital discharges to a social care setting. The current full projection for this funding is £10.419m.

Support for Businesses

- 9.5 Members will recall that Cabinet on 23 April was advised that the Council had been awarded grant funding of £54.738m to provide support for small businesses and those in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in the form of two grant funding schemes, the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RLHGF). The Government subsequently announced that this funding allocation would also provide Discretionary Grant support for those businesses not qualifying for the other categories of grant.
- 9.6 These grant schemes closed on 28 August and all final payments have been made and a full reconciliation undertaken. Government was notified in accordance with the deadline of 30 October that in total payments of £47.845m were made under the SBGF and RLHGF grant regimes to 4,232 businesses and £2.501m (the maximum allowable) of discretionary grants paid to 267 businesses. The Council has now repaid the Government £4.392m representing the excess of grant received over that paid out. The total payments made to businesses in the initial round of funding is therefore £50.346m.
- 9.7 Introduced from October 2020 was a second round of grants, again split into mandatory and discretionary grants. The grants are the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) which has mandatory and discretionary elements and a separate discretionary grant, the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).
- 9.8 In addition to LRSG payable on either a 14 or 28 day cycle linked to the rateable value (RV) of business premises, there have been 2 rounds of national lockdown grants together with a cash grant payment of £1k for 'wet led' pubs (Christmas Support Grant) and a Closed Business Lockdown payment of £4k, £6k and £9k (again dependent on the business RV).
- 9.9 The number of businesses eligible for mandatory grants reduced with the categories of businesses required to close having changed with the tiering of restrictions and national lockdowns. In addition, the take up of LRSG by qualifying businesses was initially slow. A simplified application process was introduced requiring one set of information to be completed, resulting in eligibility being assessed and then payments being made on an automatic basis for each qualifying period and category of grant (subject to checks for fraud).
- 9.10 The total value of LRSG received from Government is £28.520m. At the time of preparing the report, a total of 8,906 individual payments had been made to 1,544 qualifying businesses with grant paid of £18.369m. The amount of grant paid changes on a daily basis and the Council aims to maximise the payment of grant to qualifying businesses.

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- 9.11 Announced alongside the Chancellors budget on 3 March 2021 was the closure of most of these grant schemes, with a requirement for final applications to be made by 31 March 2021 and with final payment date of 30 April 2021. The Christmas Support Grant for Wet Led Pubs has already closed to new applicants. The final date by which an application could be submitted was 28 February with final payments having to be made by 31 March 2021.
- 9.12 The ARG received by Oldham is initially paid to GMCA, who in turn allocates the grant on a population basis. As this is a discretionary grant, it is more challenging to administer. There have been two rounds of ARG paid totaling £7.123m. The support for taxi drivers referred to at 6.3 is being paid from the ARG allocation. The amount of grant paid to businesses changes on a daily basis and the Council is aiming to allocate all the grant to qualifying businesses.
- 9.13 The Government has announced a new round of support for business which will start from 1 April 2021. The guidance and detail have not yet been announced and the Council will ensure that once received, systems will be initiated to facilitate the payment of grant to qualifying businesses as quickly as possible.
- 10 Legal Services Comments**
- 10.1 There are no direct legal issues arising from the report, however, Central Government has issued emergency legislation and guidance in relation to many functions affected by the pandemic and it is important that such functions comply with or have regard to such provisions or guidance to ensure that the Council is acting lawfully. Further, the Council is required to maintain its decision-making processes, ensure good governance and that appropriate health and safety risk assessments are in place and operational to avoid legal challenge. (Colin Brittain)
- 11 Co-operative Agenda**
- 11.1 As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to tackling the impact of COVID-19, protecting our most vulnerable residents and communities. We are putting the voice of the resident at the heart of our response, ensuring the voice of lived experience and the people impacted by COVID-19 shapes our approach to mitigation and recover. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead)
- 12 Human Resources Comments**
- 12.1 N/A
- 13 Risk Assessments**
- 13.1 N/A
- 14 IT Implications**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 Property Implications**
- 15.1 N/A
- 16 Procurement Implications**
- 16.1 N/A
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- 17 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 17.1 N/A
- 18 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 18.1 The response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the emergency legislation powers introduced to tackle it, has had a significant impact on Oldham’s communities.
- 18.2 In Oldham we are committed to minimising the impact of COVID-19 across our communities. The steps we are taking to tackle the pandemic and the subsequent recovery planning, aim to support people, especially those groups with protected characteristics who are often most impacted.
- 18.3 To support this approach we have established an Advisory Group, made up of council, community and partnership representatives, to support Oldham Council and the wider partnership with its commitment to integrate Equality and Diversity throughout its Covid-19 response and subsequent recovery planning.
- 19 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 19.1 Yes
- 20 **Key Decision**
- 20.1 No
- 21 **Key Decision Reference**
- 21.1 N/A
- 22 **Background Papers**
- 22.1 Council Report – COVID-19 Response – June 2020
- 22.2 Council Report – COVID-19 Response – July 2020
- 22.3 Council Report – COVID-19 Response Update – November 2020
- 22.4 Council Report – Covid-19 Response Update – December 2020
- 23 **Appendices**
- 23.1 N/A

DELETE THE SIGNATURE BOX IF THE REPORT IS A CABINET DECISION

Signed _____ Cabinet Member (specify whom)	Dated _____
Signed _____ Strategic Director/Deputy Chief Executive	Dated _____