



- *Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.*
- *Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.*
- *Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.*
- *Our residents will have access to good quality homes.*
- *Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents*

#### 4 **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

Any financial implications of significant decisions taken by officers in connection with the need to deal with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic are monitored weekly by a special finance group and will be reported to cabinet as part of the usual financial reports to cabinet.

##### Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
That the Cabinet note and ratify the significant decisions taken by officers since the “lockdown” came into force.	Failure by Members to note and ratify these actions and decisions increases the risk of challenge and disruption. Ratification provides the opportunity for the Council to build upon the good results already achieved and to move forward strongly by building upon these results with greater engagement across the Council	The significant decisions and actions have been taken in accordance with governance arrangements put into place in consultation with the Council’s statutory officers and in accordance with all applicable guidance issued by and best practice recommended by all relevant bodies.	Likelihood – Very Low – 2  Legal/ Regulatory – Critical  Score: 6	Increasing return to usual decision making structures and processes as circumstances permit.

##### (b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Any decisions taken by officers pursuant to the statutory regulations enacted by the Government to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic to enforce business closures and restrict assembly could potentially be under the Human Rights Act 1998 as being a breach of article 11, relating to the freedom of assembly and association, and Article 1 of the First Protocol, relating to the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions. It is considered, however, that risks of successful challenge are low as, in the latter case, derogations are permitted to control use of property in the general interest and, in the former case, for the protection of public health.

Under the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive has delegated power to act in case of emergency and urgency authority to exercise all council side functions. Additionally, under the constitution, all matters not specifically reserved are deemed to be within the delegated authority of the Chief Executive and Directors for all purposes which fall within their directorate of budget area or area of responsibility to which they may be nominated from time to time

The Cabinet may ratify any decisions of officers falling within their functions.

(c) *Equalities Impact Assessment*

All the significant decisions set out in this Report were taken, having regard, so far as was practicable in the circumstances, to the public sector equality duties and the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

(d) Workforce

The decisions taken by officers which have affected the Workforce are set out in the schedule to this Report.

(e) Property

The restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 on the ability of the Council as a landowner to take action to enforce payments of rents will have had an effect on the Council's asset management position. Any long term effects on the Council's property portfolio and asset management strategy will need to be evaluated in due course.

(f) Carbon Emissions and Energy Costs

The Council have not at present carried out any systematic analysis of the effect on carbon emissions and energy costs of the decisions taken by officers since the "lockdown" took effect. It is considered that it is self-evident, however, that the restrictions on travel and the reduction in the use and occupation of Council premises and other council activities means that it is unlikely that there was an increase in emissions and energy costs during this period.

## 5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 On 18 May 2020 the Government announced that loss of senses of smell and taste were being added to the list of coronavirus symptoms to look out for and that everyone in the UK over the age of 5 who had symptoms could be tested for Covid-19. The Council also held its first virtual meeting of Cabinet since the commencement of the lockdown
- 5.2 on 20 May 2020 the Prime Minister announced that a trace and track system would be in place from 1 June and the Government announced that a task force would be set up to see how sporting and cultural events can resume safely
- 5.3 On 21 May 2020 the Council held its first virtual Annual General Meeting
- 5.4 On 22 May the Council announced that new quarantine rules would apply to travellers to the UK from 18 June 2020 requiring isolation measures.
- 5.5 On 23 May 2020 the Government announced investment in buses and light rail services to improve safety.
- 5.6 On 24 May 2020 the Prime Minister announced the phased re-opening of Schools from 1 June.
- 5.7 On 25 May 2020 the Prime Minister announced plans for the re-opening of open air markets and car showrooms from 1 June and all non-essential shops from 15 June.
- 5.8 On 27 May 2020 the Council held its first virtual Planning Committee Meeting. The Prime Minister announced that a trace and track system would be operational in England from the next day.
- 5.9 On 28 May 2020 contact tracing systems went live in England and Scotland. The Chief Medical Officers decided to keep the alert level at 4. The Prime Minister announced that the Government's "Five Tests" had been met and groups of 6 people could gather
- 5.10 On 24 April 2020 the School Admissions (England)(Coronavirus)(Appeals Arrangements) (Amendments) Regulations 2020 came into force permitting appeals against school admissions decisions to be conducted by remote attendance.
- 5.11 On 30 April 2020 the Prime Minister announced that the UK are "past the peak".

## 6 **Comments of Other Committees**

A further report on this subject in the same terms will also be submitted to full Council at their next meeting.

This Report may also be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at a future meeting of that Committee.

## 7 **Conclusion**

This Report brings The Cabinet up to date with major events since the last report to the cabinet on this subject on 18 March 2020 and informs the Cabinet of the significant decisions taken by officers since that date. The noting and ratification of those decisions by the Cabinet at the first available opportunity will enable the Council to continue to seek to meet its duties to protect public health and to serve the well being of those who live, work and visit its area.

8 **Appendices Attached**

A - Table of significant decisions

9 **Background Papers**

The Coronavirus Act 2020

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closures) (England) Regulations 2020

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendments) Regulations 2020