

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET COUNCIL	Wednesday, 14th October 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
South Ribble Prevention Zone Framework	Leader of the Council	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Yes
Is this report on the Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan ?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	No
Is this report confidential?	No

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek approval from the Cabinet for the updated South Ribble Local Prevention Zone Framework.

PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Cabinet approves the South Ribble updated Local Prevention Zone Framework and notes that this is a dynamic document that will be amended on a frequent basis in line with the dynamic risk-based response.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3. The South Ribble Local Prevention Zone Framework sets out how the Council will work with partners, businesses and the public at a local level to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks. Successful local management will break the chains of COVID-19 transmission to enable people to return to and maintain a more normal way of life.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (tick all those applicable):

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	x
Place, Homes and Environment	x

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	x
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BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. Managing outbreaks is a very dynamic process and the overarching aim of this framework is to ensure that we have plans both to act preventatively to stop outbreaks and to act at the earliest stage of local incidents to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak spreading further.
6. Wherever possible, actions to address outbreaks of COVID-19 will be undertaken in partnership with local communities, on the basis of informed engagement and consent.

PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)

7. This Framework sets out how the Council will work with local partners, businesses and with the public at a local level to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks.
8. The Framework details the current situation of both pillar 1 and pillar 2 cases in South Ribble and shows low levels of COVID-19 cases at this current time. This is a very active situation but currently South Ribble is RAG rated **RED** by Public Health England. The rating was given as the threshold of cases is exceeded for two or more of the 14 most recent days regardless of the magnitude of the exceedances.
9. The Lancashire Resilience Forums rating of South Ribble undertaken by the Joint Intelligence Planning Group chaired by the Director of Public Health RAG rate South Ribble as **RED** based on the rising number of cases. South Ribble is now subject to national interventions as is the rest of Lancashire apart from Blackpool.

10. The national interventions which came into force on the 22nd September and introduced the following Regulations:

- That interhousehold mixing in private dwellings and gardens is prohibited
- That the hospitality sector (food and drink) be limited to table service only
- That the night time economy be subject to closing between 22:00 and 05:00

Guidance:

- Residents are advised to only use public transport for essential purposes, such as travelling to school or work
- Residents are advised against attending amateur and semi-professional sporting events as spectators

11. Following approval of the first report on the 5th of August several changes have been made. These changes include:

- Amendments to the situational report as the Council now has access to the postcode data which has enabled us to identify the following wards of concern Earnshaw Bridge, Farington, St Ambrose, Broadfield, Howick and Priory.
- Access to postcode data has enabled the Environmental Health Team to focus their efforts on the preventative work in those identified areas. Over 50 visits have been made businesses in these areas.
- The action summary has been updated with several key changes to note. Epidemiological data is now being used to identify areas of concern to enable the Council to focus on how best to target our work. The data currently shows that community transmission is how COVID is spreading in South Ribble. Therefore, the Council's communications have been focusing on how to stop the spread including advice on hand washing, face masks and social distancing.
- Another key change is a clarification on enforcement of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restriction) (England No3) Regs 2020. The Council has an agreed protocol with Lancashire County Council on how to use Regulation 3 of the Act for direction to any individual premises, event or public place if they feel there is an imminent serious risk to public health.
- An additional three annex documents have been added which include the battle rhythm for triggering task force activity and declaring a Local Prevention Zone, the LCC Covid-19 Response and Containment offer (Key contact section has been removed) and details on the mobilisation of testing units.

12. The first meeting of the Joint South Ribble and Chorley Task Force met on the 5th August and will meet on a weekly basis to make decisions on the battle

rhythm of the work each Council is undertaking to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks. The team has also been joined by the Police.

CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

13. Community support and protecting community cohesion is crucial for the success of this plan, as it requires behaviour change and awareness of how cultural norms affect infection rates. We have an existing community engagement network to enable us to communicate with key community contacts, elected members, and stakeholders in the relevant wards, as well as pan-borough representative groups, to inform them of the situation, and provide reassurance. We are engaging with our community via social media and specifically raising awareness in high risk settings.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14. The alternative option is to continue with the status quo.

15. If the status quo was to be maintained, it is likely that the Council would not have an agreed framework to clarify responsibilities and empower the Council to take preventative action and make strong decisions locally.

AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS

16. NONE.

RISK MANAGEMENT

17. The key risk if a framework is not approved is that the Council will not have framework of how the Council will work with partners, businesses and with members of the public at a local level to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks of COVID-19.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

18. As discussed where ever possible any actions to address outbreaks of COVID-19 will be undertaken in partnership with the local community and this will consider the equality and diversity impact of any decisions made.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

19. The framework describes the need to increase capacity. Three new post of Health Protection Practitioner and two assistant post has been created and will be funded by LCC (£72,850 up to 31 March 2022). LCC will also provide additional funding of £45,989 up to 31 March 2022) to support other costs that may be required, for example staff doing additional work out of hours or overtime.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

20. It is imperative of course that the council continues to work effectively and proactively with its partners and the public to tackle the continuing challenges posed by COVID-19. An effective dialogue with the Upper Tier Authority (County Council) is particularly important. The Framework in question is a document that will need to be updated on a regular basis to reflect the changing circumstances that we are dealing with.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

There are no background papers to this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Updated South Ribble Local Prevention Framework.

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