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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 3rd September, 2020

Time: 6.30 pm

Place: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Contact: S. Tautz (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Email: committeesection@southend.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Questions from Members of the Public**
- 4 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11 June 2020 (Pages 1 - 4)**
- 5 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2020 (Pages 5 - 8)**
- **** ITEMS CALLED-IN/REFERRED DIRECT FROM CABINET - 28 JULY 2020**
- 6 Balmoral Estate (Pages 9 - 16)**
Minute 209 (Agenda Item No. 11 refers)
Called-in by Councillors Cox and Davidson
- 7 Notice of Motion: Footpath Cycling (Pages 17 - 36)**
Minute No. 212 (Agenda Item No. 14 refers)
Called-in by Councillors Cox and Davidson
- 8 Notice of Motion: No Overnight Camping in the Borough (Pages 37 - 56)**
Minute No. 213 (Agenda Item No. 15 refers)
Called-in by Councillors Cox and Davidson
- **** OTHER SCRUTINY MATTERS**
- 9 In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20-2020/21**
To receive an update on the progress of the in-depth scrutiny project for 2019/20.

Members:

Cllr D Garston (Chair), Cllr D McGlone (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Ayling, Cllr D Burzotta, Cllr D Cowan, Cllr T Cox, Cllr P Collins, Cllr M Davidson, Cllr M Dent, Cllr S George, Cllr S Habermel, Cllr H McDonald, Cllr D Nelson, Cllr I Shead, Cllr M Stafford, Cllr S Wakefield and Cllr P Wexham

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 11th June, 2020

Place: Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

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Present: Councillor D Garston (Chair)
Councillors D McGlone (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, D Burzotta, D Cowan, T Cox, P Collins, M Davidson, M Dent, S George, S Habermel, H McDonald, D Nelson, I Shead, M Stafford, S Wakefield and P Wexham

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, A Jones, K Robinson, M Terry, R Woodley (Cabinet Members), A Griffin, J Chesterton, T Forster, M Marks, L Reed, J Ruffle, J Williams, A Agba, P Bates, G Halksworth, A Keating, T MacGregor, S Meah-Sims, C Robinson, T Row, S Tautz and C Woodcraft

Start/End Time: 6.00 - 9.00 pm

40 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

41 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public relating to business included in the agenda for the meeting.

42 Declarations of Interest

The following councillors declared interests as indicated:

- (a) Councillors I Gilbert, A Jones, K Robinson, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the referred items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Cllr D Burzotta - Minute 44 (Initial Local Financial Assessment of COVID-19) - Interests in local family business and as local property landlord - Interest;
- (c) Cllr P Collins - Minute 45 (Urgent Item of Business - SO46 Report) - Season ticket holder of Southend United Football Club - Interest;
- (a) Cllr M Davidson - Minute 43 (Council's Response to COVID-19) - Volunteer with Southend Food Bank - Non-pecuniary interest, Minute 43 (Initial Local Financial Assessment of COVID-19) - Director of South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (b) Cllr I Gilbert - Minute 43 (Council's Response to COVID-19) - Council representative on the Board of Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (c) Cllr A Jones - Minute 45 (Urgent Item of Business - SO46 report) - Council's representative on governing body of Southend Adult Community College - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (d) Cllr M Terry - Minute 45 (Urgent Item of Business - SO46 Report) - Season ticket holder of Southend United Football Club - Interest; and

- (e) Cllr R Woodley - Minute 45 (Urgent Item of Business - SO46 Report) - Wife is a season ticket holder of Southend United Football Club - Interest.

43 The Council's Response to COVID-19

The Chair reported that he had called the special meeting of the Committee pursuant to Paragraph 4 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4(e) of the Constitution, to consider the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its plans for recovery.

The Committee considered Minute 24 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 9 June 2020, which had been referred direct to Scrutiny, together with a report of the Chief Executive detailing the action taken by the Council to respond to the pandemic and its approach to the restoration of services and the provision of support for local residents, businesses, staff and the borough in general.

Councillors were advised that the report was to be considered by each of the scrutiny committees during the current cycle of special meetings and were reminded that, in considering the action taken by the Council in response to the pandemic, each scrutiny committee should focus on its specific areas of responsibility. The relevant members of the Cabinet and chief officers were in attendance to answer questions raised by councillors at the meeting. In response to questions raised by councillors that couldn't be answered at the meeting, the Chair requested that details be provided by way of written response.

The Committee received a presentation from the Policy Manager and the Interim Head of Corporate Strategy, together with an updated version of the report of the Chief Executive, which also set out proposals to address arrangements for local COVID-19 outbreak planning and highlighted the role of the Council in supporting the NHS test, trace, and isolate programme. The report also detailed a proposed approach to driving recovery from the impact of the pandemic, through the use of the Southend 2050 programme.

On behalf of the Cabinet, the Leader thanked all officers of the Council for their commitment in responding to local issues arising from the pandemic and for their contribution to the delivery of new, adapted and existing services in difficult circumstances. The Leader also extended his thanks to National Health Service staff and other key workers for their dedication in responding to issues arising from the pandemic

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

- "1. That the action taken to date in response to the Covid-19 crisis, be noted;
2. That, in the light of the impact of Covid-19, the proposed approach to recovery, including the use of the Southend 2050 programme to drive the Borough and Council's recovery phase and in that context undertake a review of the Southend 2050 outcomes and roadmap content, be approved;
3. That the residents, staff, businesses and partners be thanked for all their efforts to date in responding to the pandemic;
4. That the governance arrangements for overseeing preparations for a local outbreak of Covid-19 and the production and implementation of a Local Outbreak Control Plan be put in place, as outlined in paragraph 4.15.5 of the submitted report. This will see the establishment of an Outbreak Control Oversight Board and a Local Health Protection Board as sub-groups of the Health and Wellbeing Board; and

5. That it be noted that the executive decisions, that would otherwise go to Cabinet, relating to the arrangements for local outbreak planning, the Council's role in supporting the NHS test, trace and isolate programme and associated matters, will be dealt with under the Council's SO 46 procedure, with additional consultation with the 4 Group Leaders in the case of strategic matters."

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: I Gilbert

44 Initial Local Financial Assessment of COVID-19

The Committee considered Minute 25 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 9 June 2020, which had been referred direct to Scrutiny, together with a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources), which provided a high-level initial assessment of the local financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the minimisation of its impact on local residents and businesses and the future sustainability of service provision. The report also outlined the Council's initial response to the financial challenges presented by the pandemic over the short and medium term, although councillors were advised that assumptions and understanding of many contributory factors were under constant review.

Councillors were advised that it was currently too early to assess the overall economic impact of COVID-19, but that it was currently estimated that the original lockdown arrangements could cost the authority around £2.5m-£3.0m each month and that effective management of the short and medium-term financial challenges arising from the pandemic would be important going forward, whilst continuing to provide support for local residents and businesses.

The Executive Director (Finance and Resources) highlighted areas of central Government support that had been received by the Council, including a number of elements of passported funding and reported that the pandemic had had a significant effect in terms of a number of universal income areas. The Executive Director (Finance and Resources) also gave an oral update on the latest announcements by the government regarding potential emergency grant funding since the publication of the report.

The relevant members of the Cabinet were also in attendance to answer questions raised by councillors at the meeting.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

"1. That the Council's initial assessment of the local financial impact of the unprecedented challenges that has been caused by the pandemic, be noted;

2. That the proposed tactical and strategic response to managing the financial challenges, be noted; and

3. That regular reports be presented to future Cabinet meetings, which will provide updated assessments on the Council's financial position and outline any changes to the Council's strategy and range of assumptions."

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: I Gilbert

45 Urgent Item of Business - SO46 Report

This matter was considered at the meeting as an urgent additional item of business on the basis of its relevance to the report on the Council's response to COVID-19. The Scrutiny Committee had before it the report made to the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 June 2020 and the associated Minute 26 of that meeting.

With the agreement of the Chair, the Committee considered a report setting out details of the following decisions that had been implemented pursuant to Standing Order 46 (Urgent Action) during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and were of relevance to the earlier report on the Council's response to the pandemic:

- (a) 1.1 Covid-19 - Rent Arrangements for Council Commercial Tenants; and
- (b) 1.2 Roots Hall and Fossetts Farm – Tenants

There was no debate on the report by councillors.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: As appropriate to each item

Chairman: _____

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 9th July, 2020

Place: Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

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Present: Councillor D Garston (Chair)
Councillors D McGlone (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, D Burzotta, D Cowan, T Cox, P Collins, M Davidson, M Dent, S George, S Habermel, H McDonald, D Nelson, I Shead, M Stafford, S Wakefield and P Wexham

In Attendance: Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulroney, K Robinson, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members), Councilor M Borton, Councillor K Evans, A Lewis, J Chesterton, J Ruffle, J Williams, E Cook, G Halksworth, M Sargood, T Row and S Tautz

Start/End Time: 6.30pm - 7.20 pm

134 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

135 Declarations of Interest

The following councillors declared interests as indicated:

- (a) Councillors I Gilbert, C Mulroney, K Robinson, M Terry and R Woodley (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the called-in items; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Cllr P Wexham - Minute 138 (Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update) - Board member of South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (c) Cllr M Davidson - Minute 138 (Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update) - Non-Executive Director of South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (d) Cllr S Wakefield - Minute 138 (Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update) - Sub-contractor for South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (e) Cllr D McGlone - Minute 138 (Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update) - Previous involvement with residents of Lundy Close - Non-pecuniary interest; and
- (f) Cllr M Borton - Minute 138 (Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update) - Board member of South Essex Homes - Non-pecuniary interest.

136 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public relating to the responsibilities of the Committee.

137 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 January 2020

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

138 Housing and Regeneration Pipeline, Including Acquisitions Programme - Update

The Committee considered Minute 857 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 February 2020, which had been called in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) and Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Housing and Growth), that provided an update on the pipeline of housing and development opportunities across the borough and presented proposed new arrangements to support housing delivery and wider benefits.

Resolved:

That the following decisions and recommendations of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That the progress on the Acquisitions Programme for Council Housing as set out in sections 3.5 – 3.9 of the submitted report, be noted.

2. That the progress of the first phase of housing and development pipeline sites currently in delivery as set out in sections 3.10 – 3.13 of the report, be noted.

3. That it be noted that the new arrangements for the LLP have been settled and the legal work is being completed to establish the new arrangements pursuant to minute 324 of Cabinet 17 September 2019 and Policy and Resources Scrutiny Minute 404 on 10 October 2019.

Recommended:-

4. That the proposed new arrangements for the LLP including (i) to (viii) below, be approved:

(i) The updated aims and objectives for the LLP for 2020-2030 as set out in sections 3.13 to 3.34 of the report, including the housing model.

(ii) Establishing the new Procedure Agreement and Members Agreement between PSP Facilitating Limited (1), Southend on Sea Borough Council (2) and the LLP (3) and delegating authority to the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) to finalise and complete the Agreement.

(iii) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, including dealing with any future changes to such appointments, to:

a. Appoint the Council representatives to the LLP Partnership Board.

b. Appoint the members of the Partnership Board and the Partnership Executives.

(iv) Delegate authority to the Partnership Board, to:

a. Agree the re-branding of the LLP (creation of a new trading name),

b. The commitment (on behalf of the Council) to funds for feasibility and project delivery within budgets already approved for housing and development delivery,

c. Following a Cabinet decision to opt land in to the LLP for the delivery of agreed objectives, to progress the development of the land through the LLP in accordance with the objectives for that land subject to each project clearing the required financial and legal due diligence tests.

(v) Delegate authority to the Director of Property & Commercial to request that the LLP consider the initial feasibility of sites following their appraisal through the development pipeline process (noting that Cabinet approval will be required prior to any site being legally opted in to the LLP for delivery).

(vi) That any necessary amendments be made to the Constitution to reflect the recommendations in 4 above.

(vii) That it be noted that the matters identified in Appendix 1 to the report are matters which will be reserved for the Shareholder Board.

5. That, subject to Council approval, an initial budget of £5 million be identified in the Capital Programme for the delivery of housing through the LLP and authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) to finalise the terms and make loans to the LLP within the allocated budget to enable delivery of development in accordance with the principles of the PSP Housing Model and subject to any schemes delivering an appropriate and sustainable return on investment.”

Note: The decisions in 1-3 above constitute Executive functions. The decisions in 4-5 above constitute Council functions.

Cabinet Members: Cllr I Gilbert and Cllr R Woodley

139 Seaway Car Park

The Committee considered Minute 866 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 February 2020, which had been called in to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, together with a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources), that provided an update on the current situation in relation to the Seaway Car Park and presented options to enable Cabinet to decide how it wished to proceed in relation to the proposed development of the car park and associated land.

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chair indicated that he intended to take this item together with the following agenda item (Item 7 - Notice of Motion - Seaway Car Park Development), as the two matters were related to similar issues.

Resolved:

1. That the following decision of the Cabinet be noted:

“1. That option 2 set out in the submitted report be approved, namely the Council maintains its support for the Development and does not serve notice to terminate the Agreement at least until such time as the final decision has been made on the planning application 18/02302/BC4M.

Such support would be maintained on the basis of:

- The economic case including the significant job opportunities that the development will bring;
- The contribution to the Council’s published Ambition and Outcomes;
- The level of commitment made by the Council and Turnstone;
- The desire to maintain the currently committed tenants;
- The progress which has been made to date;
- The reduced risk of the Homes England funding claw back.

2. That while the planning appeal is running, negotiations be progressed with Turnstone about the possibility of a lease-wrapper/income strip lease model to accelerate delivery and provide additional rent for the Council through a different model and any other matters which would accelerate delivery.”

2. That the decision of the Cabinet and the Notice of Motion be referred to full Council for consideration in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 39.

Note: This is an Executive Function
Cabinet Member: Cllr R Woodley

140 Notice of Motion - Seaway Car Park Development

This item was taken together with the previous agenda item (Item 6 - Seaway Car Park), as the two matters were related to similar issues.

141 In-Depth Scrutiny Projects & Summary of Work 2019/20

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services), which provided an update on progress with regard to the in-depth scrutiny projects due to have been completed during the 2019/20 municipal year. The report also provided information about the work that had been carried out by each of the scrutiny committees during the previous year.

Resolved:

1. That the Committee note progress with regard to its in-depth scrutiny project due to have been undertaken during the 2019/20 municipal year.
2. That the completion of the in-depth scrutiny project be carried forward into the 2020/21 municipal year.
3. That no further topic(s) be selected by the Committee for additional in-depth review during 2020/21.
4. That the Committee note the summary of the work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees during 2019/20.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function.

Chair: _____

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director
Growth & Housing
To

Cabinet
On

28th July 2020

Report prepared by:

Glyn Halksworth – Director of Housing Development
Mario Ambrose – Executive Director, South Essex Homes

Agenda
Item No.

6

Balmoral Estate Improvement and Structural Work Project

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s)

Cabinet Member: Councillor Ian Gilbert

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item) / Part 2 (Confidential Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet on a programme of structural and improvements work required at the Balmoral Tower blocks (Grampian, Brecon and Blackdown) and to seek agreement to utilise HRA funds for these works.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree to progress with a programme of works to the Balmoral tower blocks to include both structural and improvement works (structural insulation and heating upgrades)
- 2.2 To agree for the Council and South Essex Homes to undertake full consultation and engagement with affected residents.
- 2.3 To agree a budget of £2.325m to be added to the HRA capital investment programme to be funded from the HRA Capital Investment Reserve.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following routine planned structural surveys of the Council's housing stock, an external consultant (Michael Dyson and Associates Ltd) advised that although the Balmoral tower blocks can be preserved for at least 30 years if usual repairs and maintenance are continued, given the construction of the blocks (Large Panel System) and recent guidance issued by DCLG in September 2017 further intrusive tests should be carried out to check whether the blocks could be modified to improve panel fixity and floor/wall resilience in the unlikely event of an explosion. It should be noted that the original structural surveys were not instigated because of any concerns in the buildings and the consultants did not advise that the blocks are unsafe and require immediate decant of the

residents. The blocks have electric heating and cooking facilities and not gas supplies, which lowers any potential risks to the properties.

- 3.2 SEH procured Curtins Consulting Ltd for the required further structural investigations. Curtins produced a report following these intrusive structural checks which advised that the buildings do not comply with Building Regulations or the current Eurocode for concrete design. The buildings can however comply with the Building Research Establishment's (BRE) LPS Criterion 2 with strengthening measures to the top 3 storeys which would limit the effects of gas explosion and therefore meet current recommendations. It should be noted that this only affects the Balmoral estate tower blocks not the other ten tower blocks in the borough and is not in any way connected to the post Grenfell Tower recommendations and is only concerned with the structure of the buildings themselves.

Overview of works



Fig 1 – Balmoral Tower blocks – (L-R) Grampian, Brecon and Blackdown

- 3.3 A pilot project was undertaken to a void property in order to better understand the potential levels of disruption and timescales to carry out any works. The structural works recommended are as follows:
- Fitting steel angle cleats to tie the base of certain walls to the floors throughout the flats and drying rooms.
 - Reinstatement of wall and floor finishes and install larger skirting boards
 - Remedial works to fitted bathrooms and kitchen units
- 3.4 In addition to the structural works there would be a need for enabling works such as asbestos removal which would be included in the overall project costs.
- 3.5 Additional works have also been identified that would be beneficial to be undertaken whilst the structural works are being carried out. This includes namely improvement to the structural insulation and also upgrades to the heating system (change from electric storage systems to oil filled panel heaters) which will improve the energy efficiency of the buildings. The blocks identified require major works so have not been identified for sprinkler inclusion at this

time. However, a separate pilot project of sprinkler installation is currently being prepared.

Works Timescales and Management

- 3.6 The works will directly affect 18 properties in each of the three tower blocks and will be undertaken on a block by block basis with the decanting of one floor at a time. This means a maximum of six flats will need to be decanted at any one time and will be vacant. It is estimated that a flat will take approximately four weeks to complete, and a contractor employing two full teams will work simultaneously on two flats. Therefore a complete floor will take three months to complete and the first tower block will take nine months to complete
- 3.7 In order to facilitate these works, an external consultant will be procured to undertake the Pre-contract duties (Design, procurement of works and Principal Designer). However post contract works (Contract Admin, Clerk of Works etc.) will be undertaken jointly by a Quantity Surveyor and by a South Essex Homes Project Manager. It has been considered and accepted that due to the repetitive nature of the works the contractor will achieve some time efficiencies in undertaking the works to the remaining two blocks. Therefore it is considered that the last two tower blocks will have a programmed duration of seven and a half months each. The total anticipated programme for the works is twenty four months. Pre-site process timescales are detailed below:
- Appointment of consultants - July 2020
 - Specification and tender preparation – 12 weeks
 - Tender period – 4 weeks
 - Tender Evaluation – 4 weeks
 - Approval period – 4 weeks
 - Mobilisation – 4 weeks
 - Commencement on site February 2021
- 3.8 Given the disruptive and sensitive nature of these works, a significant part of the project will relate to the communications and resident liaison/engagement work which will be carried out by SEH in partnership with the Council. A cross partnership Project board has been set up to act as project oversight and provide monitoring of key outcomes of the scheme. This will also look to include tenant representation as the scheme progresses.

Decant Overview

- 3.9 On each of the three tower blocks, the following flats are affected:

Floor 11	5 flats and 1 x drying room
Floor 12	6 flats
Floor 13	6 flats
Floor 14	1 flat

- 3.10 The decant process will be designed in order to offer assurance and support to residents, and will be accompanied by clear, regular communication throughout the life of the project, including via dedicated resident liaison officers. The proposed approach to the temporary decant is to refurbish void properties in the

blocks to a high standard. These can then be utilised for decant purposes, either on a temporary basis or where the resident expresses a wish for permanent relocation. A survey of resident needs will be carried out as part of the project and should this identify a need to move to more appropriate housing, for example due to household size, then support will be provided to identify a move to other homes within the Council's stock. All associated costs of the decant process will be covered by the project and have been included within the budget.

Financial Implications.

- 3.11 SEH have commissioned external professional Quantity Surveyors to produce the costs and budget requirements associated with this project. The overall Structural Strengthening Works with Insulation and Heating Upgrade works for the three tower blocks has been calculated at £2,324,906.79. Detail of the costs are below:

Project Phase	Amount
Cost of the Structural and enabling works Total for 3 Blocks	£1,564,907.79
Decanting and Refurbishment Total for 3 Blocks	£558,120.00
Structural Engineer's Fees Total for 3 Blocks	£22,200.00
Full Design, Procurement, Post Contract and Project Management Fees Total for 3 Blocks*	£179,679.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST for 3 blocks	£2,324,906.79

*Fees include costs for the Contract Administration and Building Surveyor services which now will be undertaken in-house by SEH with a new role which will concentrate on major projects.

- 3.12 It should be noted that based on Counsel advice and to avoid challenge, the Council should waive the costs associated with re-charging the minority of leaseholders that may be liable for a contribution to the works.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 A number of other options have been considered in regards to this project:
- Do Nothing – This would not be appropriate as it would not meet the needs of tenants and leaseholders and would not be in line with achieving our 2050 outcomes nor the aims of the Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy
 - Only undertake structural works – This would not be appropriate as it would not meet the needs of our tenants and leaseholders and would not be in line with our 2050 Green City outcomes.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The recommendations have been made in order to improve the structural integrity and energy efficiency of three of the Council's tower blocks and also ensure that residents are fully engaged throughout this project.
- 5.2 In terms of the funding of this project, SEH have commissioned external professional Quantity Surveyors to produce the costs and associated budget requirements and the Council's Finance team has confirmed the HRA Capital Reserves as the most appropriate method of funding these works.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

Improving the structural integrity of Southend Council stock contributes to Southend 2050 Safe and Well outcome of **"We are well on our way to ensuring that everyone has a home that meets their needs."**

Improving the energy efficiency of Southend Council stock contributes to Southend 2050 Safe and Well outcome of **"Green City with outstanding examples of energy efficient and carbon neutral buildings, streets, transport and recycling."**

Southend's *Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy* aims to provide "decent high quality, affordable and secure homes for the people of Southend" as well as "encouraging good quality housing design, management and maintenance". Improving the quality of our existing housing stock is key to meeting these aims.

6.2 Financial Implications

The budget for the project has been calculated at £2.325m. The Council's Capital Finance team have been consulted on this project and it has been confirmed that it can be funded from HRA Capital Reserves.

6.3 Legal Implications

Initial consultation will be undertaken with the Council's Legal Team in regards to the project. Legal considerations relating to leaseholders will be dealt with as the project progresses to the pre-site stage.

6.4 People Implications

As per budget breakdown, the fees include costs for the Contract Administration and Building Surveyor, a role which now will be undertaken in-house by SEH who will employ a Project Manager to resource this project along with other major projects affecting Council stock.

Full consultation and engagement will be undertaken with affected residents of the Balmoral tower blocks and the necessary decant process will be supportive

to resident and communicated clearly and regularly throughout the life of the project.

6.5 Property Implications

The main purpose of these Major Project works is to improve the standards of the Council's housing stock including structural, insulation and heating works. This also links to the Council's Housing and Development Pipeline project and will ensure the long term structural integrity of Council assets included within the process.

6.6 Consultation

Necessary consultation between South Essex Homes and the Council's Housing, Finance and Corporate Property and Asset Management colleagues has been undertaken. A cross partnership Project Board has been set up to monitor the progress of the project and will look to include tenant representation as the project progresses.

Full consultation and engagement with affected tenants and leaseholders will be required and will be a core function of the Project Board that will be overseeing this project. Both SEH's and the Council's Communications teams will be integral to this process.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

Equality and diversity will be monitored by the Project Board throughout the project from consultation stage through to on site works.

6.8 Risk Assessment

The necessary risk assessment work will be undertaken in regards to these major project works and this risk will be mitigated by cross partnership working between a number of Council teams and SEH. A risk register will be updated and monitored throughout the project.

6.9 Value for Money

All spend in relation to this project will be subject to the relevant procurement rules to ensure procurement compliance and value for money

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Community Safety will be considered throughout the on-site works and will be a key area of monitoring with the chosen contractor.

6.11 Environmental Impact

The proposed works to the Balmoral estate will improve energy use and environmental standards and also will look to improve economic sustainability where possible.

7. Background Papers

N/A

8. Appendix 1

South Essex Homes - Balmoral Structural Works

Overall Project Summary

Critical Path Milestones – Based on Full Project Plan dated 19th June 2020

Project	Key Task	Deadline
Balmoral House	Initial commencement meeting	10 th July 2020
	Draft Specification Completed	18 th September 2020
	Submit Building Control Application if required	21 st September 2020
	Final Specification and Tender Documents issued	2 nd October 2020
	Publish Contract Notice	5 th October 2020
	Tender Return Date	10 th November 2020
	Tender Evaluation Concluded	2 nd December 2020
	Issue Tender Report	4 th December 2020
	Client Approval	14 th December 2020
	Sign Contracts / Pre Contract Meeting	11 th January 2021
	Mobilisation period	12 th January – 8 th February 2021
	Commence site set-up	9 th February – 2 nd March 2021
	Works to Floor 1, block 1, including decant period	10 th February – 1 st June 2021
	Works to Floor 2, block 1, including decant period	12 th May – 31 st August 2021
	Works to Floor 3, block 1, including decant period	11 th August - 30 th November 2021
	Works to Floor 1, block 2, including decant period	10 th November 2021 – 20 th January 2022
	Works to Floor 2, block 2, including decant period	31 st December 2021 – 31 st March 2022
	Works to Floor 3, block 2, including decant period	11 th March – 9 th June 2022
	Works to Floor 1, block 3, including decant period	20 th May 2022 – 18 th August 2022
	Works to Floor 2 block 3, including decant period	29 th July 2022 – 27 th October 2022
	Works to Floor 3, block 3, including decant period	7 th October 2022 – 5 th January 2023
	Practical Completion for completion of 9 th floor.	20 th January 2023
	Defects liability period – block 1	8 th December 2022
Defects liability period – block 2	19 th June 2023	
Defects liability period – block 3	22 nd January 2024	
Final Completion	29 th January 2024	

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Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director (Neighbourhoods & Environment)

To

Cabinet

On

28 July 2020

Report prepared by: Simon Ford, Head of Community Safety

Agenda
Item No.

7

The Council's response to Cycling on Footway (Notice of Motion)

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): Policy and Resources
Cabinet Member (Community Safety): Councillor Martin Terry

1. Purpose of Report

To provide a response to the following Notice of Motion as proposed by Cllr Burzotta and Cllr Buck:

During the recent COVID-19 crisis, this town and many others have encouraged and seen increased participation in cycling and walking. This is to be welcomed. The increased participation in cycling and the continued Government encouragement for people to walk means that measures should be taken by this Council to ensure that pedestrians are protected in areas where they come into close contact with cyclists

This Council therefore resolves that it should:

1. Include the prohibition of cycling on footpaths and pedestrian areas within the Town Centre and Seafront Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

2. Enable the Community Safety Team and other designated staff to issue fixed penalty notices for non-compliance.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet support / agree a legal process to be introduced at Southend Council which allows Community Safety Officers or other Council Officers designated with CSAS accreditation status (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals caught cycling on the footpath or in No Cycling zones – ***specifically Southend High Street and Southend seafront from Old Leigh to East Beach***

2.2 That Cabinet support / agree the introduction of a legal process at Southend Council which allows Community Safety Officers or other Council Officers

designated with CSAS accreditation status (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals caught cycling on the footway or in No Cycling zones **across the whole Borough**.

- 2.3 That Cabinet agree not to include cycling on footpaths as an addition to the current PSPO prohibitions
- 2.4 That Cabinet acknowledge the Notice of Motion and seek further consultation with stakeholders and local community before making decision
- 2.5 That Cabinet monitor the new guidance / laws that are due from Government regarding the legal use of electric scooters and return to use of electric scooters on footpaths at a later date.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Covid 19 pandemic has seen / been the cause of significant increases in the use of bicycles and electric scooters across the Borough. Most users adhere to cycling lanes or dismount when approaching a 'No Cycling zone'. However, there are some that ride on the footpaths ignoring regulations and the safety of pedestrian footpath users. With the increase in both cycle and pedestrian traffic in Southend, particularly along the seafront and High St areas, the risk of accidents and crashes has heightened, and in the last two or three months a number of incidents by which cyclists and pedestrians have been injured as a result of a collision have occurred. Most of these incidents have happened when cyclists have been riding on the footpath.
- 3.2 The number of complaints received by the Community Safety Unit and Police in relation to dangerous cycling and or cycling on the footpath (including the use of hired electric scooters) continues to increase. On high footfall days, when pedestrian traffic is at its highest, such complaints are almost daily to officers on patrol.
- 3.3 In view of the incident and complaint increases, the council are looking to finalise a process which would allow Community Safety Officers (and other officers designated with CSAS accreditation status) to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to people cycling on the footway. This work has been taking place for some time and is near completion,
- 3.4 The process required includes a provision to prosecute an individual under criminal law if the individual failed to pay the fixed penalty fine (£50), including the right of the individual to appeal against a penalty notice issued. The legislation by which the process falls under includes s.54 of the Road Traffic *Offenders* Act 1988 (power to issue an FPN), and s72 of the Highways Act 1835 (offence of cycling on a footpath)
- 3.5 The use of electric scooters across the Borough is equally becoming a concern with similar type incidents / behaviours being reported. The Government has recently announced legalising the use of hired scooters on roads – but not footpaths. It would therefore be sensible to allow CSO's to issue FPN's for those caught riding electric scooters on a footpath and apply the same legal process.

- 3.6** Officers are confronted with footpath riders on daily basis. Currently they use their discretion as to how and when then engage with a cyclist or scooter rider. It is often the case that a loud verbal warning is enough for the offender to dismount. However, in some case the offenders simply ignore the warning and continue their journey. Granting CSO's with such powers, would send a strong signal to those offenders who continue to ignore the warnings and the regulations. Certainly, the active targeting by CSO's (with police support) of hotpsot zones such as the Cinder Path, Chalkwell Esplanade and Southend High Street, alongside strong media messaging, would likely impact on the current activity we have seen escalating over these past few months
- 3.7** The Notice of Motion focused on the geographical area of Southend seafront and Southend High Street. Within the above recommendations we would ask Cabinet to consider extending that area to the whole Borough in order that CSO's (or other designated CSAS officers) could tackle cycling on footpaths **in any area** of Southend.

4.0. Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure Cabinet has an opportunity to support the proposal (whether it be for specific zones only or the whole Borough) or seek further consultation with stakeholders. The Notice asks that the prohibition of cycling on footpaths be included in the current PSPO (public space protection order). This has not been included as a recommendation, as the consultation required to effect such, (compulsory under the PSPO legislation which would include both public and stakeholder), takes a considerable time (even if a locality is adding another prohibition to a current Order). Furthermore, the PSPO can only be area specific. For example, Chalkwell Esplanade, where a lot of footpath cycling takes place, is not covered within the PSPO footprint, nor is the Cinder Path. Therefore the quicker route to achieve this would be via CSAS accredited officers (which the CSO's are) and establishing an internal legal process, rather than adding to the current PSPO prohibitions.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1** Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map: encourage non-vehicular use across the Borough such as cycling – safely.

6.0 Financial Implications - Nil

- 7.0 Legal Implications** – as noted above. A legal process is required

8.0 People Implications - Nil

9.0 Property Implications - Nil

10.0 Equalities and Diversity Implications - Nil

11.0 Risk Assessment – Not required

12.0 Value for Money – Non specific

13.0 Community Safety Implications
Addressed in the report

14.0 Environmental Impact – none specific

15.0. Background Papers – none other than the Notice of Motion

Race

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
BAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People from BAME communities are being disproportionately affected by the virus. This includes healthcare workers, with the overwhelming majority of those who have died being from BAME communities. • BAME groups are overrepresented among critically ill Covid-19 patients, 35% of all critical patients (The Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre) • Rapid data and evidence reviews have indicated that BME groups are at increased risk of developing and dying from COVID-29. The risk for Black African groups was 3.24 times higher than the general population; Pakistani groups by 3.29; Bangladeshi groups 2.21; Black Caribbean groups 2.21 higher, and Indian groups 1.7 times higher. • Causes appear to include overrepresentation in lower socio-economic groups, multi-family and multi-generational households, disproportionate employment in lower-band key worker roles, and co-morbidities (especially cardiovascular and diabetes). (Razaq, Harrison, Karunanithi, Barr, Asaria, Khunti, 2020) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Public Health England review into the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic has been announced. It will explore thousands of health records to review COVID-19 impacts by ethnicity alongside measures such as deprivation, age, gender, and obesity. • Recommendations from BME groups to back review using local real-time data • Recommendation to record protected characteristics of all patients in hospital • value <p>Of 173,658 Southend residents in the 2011 census, non-white ethnicities form 8.1% of the population;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1% Mixed / Multiple ethnic group (3651) • 2.1% Black / African / Caribbean / Black British (3,647) • 1.04% Asian / Asian British: Indian (1,810) • 0.89% Asian / Asian British: Other Asian (1,554) • 0.62% Asian / Asian British: Chinese (1,084) • 0.61% Asian / Asian British: Pakistani (1,059) • 0.54% Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi (933) • 0.51% Other Ethnic Group (897) • 0.09% Gypsy / Traveller / Irish Traveller (162).
BAME (particularly Chinese or perceived Chinese).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in hate crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Police with messages around hate crime. • Messages that promote positive contribution of BAME people during the crisis. • DCC information on reporting is available at: https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/reportincidents/hatecrime
BAME – asylum seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ face additional barriers and insecurity as they cannot access life-saving refuges and are barred from other forms of public support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID 19 exempt from NHS charging – but need to ensure this is communicated to healthcare workers and people who may be concerned about receiving healthcare.
BAME with families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling trapped and isolated as unable to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure BAME groups are included in district hub

abroad	<p>connect with families during reduced travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of emotional and practical support reduced. 	<p>arrangements for targeted/community support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All organisations with high level BAME workforce to promote workplace wellbeing support. A message of acknowledgement to all staff who have families overseas during this difficult time may make people feel that we are thinking of them.
BAME, young, carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workplace has changed since the 2008 economic crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to mitigate financial hardship will be essential for gig economy workers – who still have very few protections in employment law, and are more likely to be younger, from an ethnic minority, or have caring commitments – if they must self-isolate. [EHRC]
Gypsy and travelling communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tend not to be registered with GP. Higher levels of poor health. Restricted movement leads to loss of income. Traditional travelling season starts as virus is predicted to peak. If they do move and encamp, community tensions could be higher than usual. In addition, may not be able to evict as quickly. Some campervan/motorhome users (not GRT) have been travelling/setting up encampments in order to distance themselves from others. This has a negative impact by bringing the virus to rural communities which are already disadvantaged by poorer access to services. However, while sites have been closed to prevent this it should be noted that some people live permanently on the road or live between two or more sites (but don't identify as GRT) and may be forced to live in unsuitable locations such as residential roads. issue of access to water on site. those on winter sites will still need to move. site visits could put people at risk. evictions will result in movement of people – could put people at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted dialogue (nationally and locally) with GRT communities to ensure they understand what is happening and identify what support is needed for those who will need to be shielding. Monitor impact of holiday site closures on people permanently resident in campervans/mobile homes. If necessary, open sites in suitable areas to allow access for this cohort. <p>Existing encampments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring provision of water bowzers. •reduce site visits to 'essential only' and observe social distancing rules. only evict if absolutely necessary. This article in the Irish Times highlights the issues faced by travelling communities. It gives examples, such as Galway City Council established a dedicated unit to monitor the impact of the pandemic on Travellers. It has provided extra portaloos, repaired heating where broken and provided alternative off-site accommodation to families in overcrowded conditions. Twice-weekly teleconferences between HSE Traveller Health Units and Traveller groups had "been really good... [allowing] local groups to raise issues as they emerge".
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 –our local hub is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. Residents are also able to access financial help, benefits, employment support and housing advice. 	

Disability

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
All disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shielded individuals face increased mental health risks in prolonged isolation. This is seen in reporting, as a third of disabled adults reported spending too much time alone during shielding. • Non-shielded yet vulnerable individuals may face increased risk to contracting COVID-19 if making additional visits to access health services. • COVID-19 related deaths are not routinely being published for this group, in line with other protected groups. • 45.1% of disabled adults felt worried about COVID-19 vs a third of non-disabled adults. Two thirds (64.8%) felt COVID-19 concerns affected their wellbeing (Opinions and Lifestyle survey, ONS, 2020). 	<p>PHE is analysing COVID-19 deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A learning disabilities mortality review will publish COVID-19 data. •
Deaf people/Hard of Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited understanding of English; require information in BSL. • Very little information about coronavirus has been made available/promoted in BSL. • Encouraging/use of phone contact during social isolation – not suitable for people with profound/severe hearing loss. Facemasks are problematic for people who lip read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide important information in BSL video or Easy Read. BSL should be made available where this could be considered a ‘reasonable adjustment’. • Provide BSL interpreter ‘in vision’ signing as part of important spoken word video/TV. Subtitles are NOT accessible to Deaf people. • Ensure staff/volunteers have basic BSL skills and know how to access a remote video interpreting service if they are likely to come into contact with Deaf people (for example, if dropping off supplies to home of Deaf resident as part of targeted support for people who are shielding). • Provide BSL video versions for key information on websites. Alternatively, allow Deaf people to access the remote video interpreting service (via a link on the webpage) in order to have key information about the pandemic from the website translated where this isn’t already provided in BSL video (it is probably more cost effective to produce BSL video translation for static information if there is demand). • Include options for SMS contact to helplines etc. • Recognise that for some, face to face visiting is the only

		<p>option. (Find out who these people are).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide SMS and email contact routes. • Provision of clear face masks needed. • Hearing assistive technology products available to purchase via the Action on Hearing Loss online shop.
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC can provide information in different formats such as large print, Braille, British Sign Language and in the many different languages and dialects spoken in Southend. • British Sign Language resources on Home Isolation produced by Public Health England. Public Health England have released new British Sign Language (BSL) guidance. PHE campaign resources in BSL: • https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5080 • BSL users can talk to NHS111 using the InterpreterNOW app (registration is required). They can also connect via a PC or laptop. 	
Partially sighted/Blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut off because suitable means of communication not as widely available and familiar things may change and put them at risk, e.g. shop layouts, items on shelves. If alone, will be wary of opening door to strangers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority/first tranche group for targeted support for people who are shielding? • Ensure written information available in audio and large print where required, or via phone contact. • Ensure web based information is compliant with new web accessibility legislation so that it works with screen-readers •
SBC Provision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southend Coronavirus Action (SCA) Helpline has launched. This is for residents that may need support and help with basic tasks like grocery shopping/picking up medication, or who feel isolated and do not have a local support network in place. • Helpline advertised via a radio campaign 	
Long term health condition, but not in coronavirus high risk group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties getting prescription medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local volunteer prescription delivery support
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeployed council staff working on the helpline have also arranged for prescriptions and medicines to be delivered. 	
Community support initiatives – dropping off prescriptions Learning disability or limited English language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of translations or information in Easy Read from central government (only one example seen so far – 25th March). • Complex and changing information difficult to understand and follow. • Potential higher risk of falsely reported visitors – There were 8 reports of ‘residential visitors’ made (25/03/20 - 05/04/20). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use consistent, plain English in all communications • Provide written/online information in Easy Read format. • Include an ‘alternative format statement’ in all correspondence. • Provide information in foreign language on request or if it is known the person requires it. • Ensure call centres have access to, and know how to use, a foreign language telephone interpreting service. • Promote any government/official guidance that is provided in alternative formats/languages, for example: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5080

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand washing guidance in Easy Read, Larger Print and BSL https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/# Information in more community languages, matches NHS guidelines and they are currently translating the Stay at Home guidance too
SBC provision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBC can provide information in different formats such as large print, Braille, British Sign Language and in the many different languages and dialects spoken in Southend. Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 – this is our local hub and is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. 	
SEN – disability/young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reduced number of children still able to attend school will only constitute a small proportion of all children with special educational needs, and the dispensation for councils to reduce support to these pupils will have a profound impact on families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such decisions should be taken only when ‘strictly necessary’ and for the shortest time possible, as set out in the legislation. [EHRC Relaxed regulations enabling this group to exercise more frequently than others throughout lockdown has been effective.
Neurodiversity and all groups with communication difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of direct instruction and use of metaphor unhelpful. Inconsistencies in messages can be confusing. There have been numerous cases of information being changed slightly – for example “avoid all non-essential contact and travel” became “avoid all contact and non-essential travel” on BBC Spotlight. These subtle changes in the message can cause confusion. Changes between 7 day and 14 day isolation has confused people as has “essential work”, “travel to work when it can be done at home” and “critical work”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use plain English. Be direct – don’t shy away from giving people firm instruction. Stick to the script. Be consistent and avoid changing messages without being clear of the reasons for the change. Ask that news/media follow these principles too Resource:https://www.dimensionsforautism.life/devon-autism-guide PHE is analysing COVID-19 deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism.
Neurodiverse people/autistic people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled people find change in routine particularly difficult. For autistic people, change can be traumatic. For example, autistic people are selective eaters and panic buying has resulted in certain food items becoming unavailable. This will create stress not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully consider who will be a point of contact for neurodiverse people and provide training where necessary in targeted support for people who are shielding. Find out if able to meet needs of selective eaters if distributing food parcels. Wellbeing support for parents/carers under strain.

	<p>only for an autistic person but also their parent/carer or people living with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may also be selective about who they speak to and prefer to have the same care worker/point of contact. • (is there someone around use of PPE and masks being a particular issue for those with autism?) 	
<p>Neurodiverse people/autistic people/dementia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People arrested (and released) for complex behaviour associated with the current situation (25th March - 3 in Devon to date). • Staying indoors might not be possible and thus they are putting themselves and others at risk. But to take a punitive approach would not be helpful here either. • Those with ADHD may need a lot of exercise and may need to go out more than once a day for exercise. • Anxiety caused from the disruption to routine is already causing people difficulty sometimes with the result of 'meltdown' which can result in verbal or physical aggression. • Those who are not known to social care may struggle to engage with the various social networks that are being set up to support communities so are more at risk of isolation resulting in lack of essentials such as food and medication if they are ill. • It will be difficult for some care homes with specific resident groups such as learning disabilities / dementias to adhering to isolation advice and policies, some residents will not understand / comply with the advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the police that autistic people and especially those with ADHD may find it difficult to comply with instructions that they cannot comprehend, and because they perceive the world differently and may have very fixed thinking patterns, it is not always easy or even possible to sway their thinking. • Advise the police to receive autism training for example, not to touch. • Work with autistic/ADHD people to try and help them understand that what they consider important might not be so important in the current circumstances.
<p>Dementia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties coping with change – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority/first tranche for targeted support for people who

	<p>particularly where items in shops are no longer available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members unable to visit and check in on relatives • Day centres closed creating additional pressure of carers 	<p>are shielding?</p>
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments to delivery of psychological services • Effects of confinement and social distancing – specific challenges for those with existing MH concerns, children, those with ASD. • Impact of job insecurity • Management of psychological difficulties incl. PTSD, confusion. <p>SBC Internal workforce Impact on our colleagues due to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing • Homeworking • Lockdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate and effective use of online services • Mitigation of social isolation through promotion of online/telephone services • Promotion of physical activity/exercise • Mental health and domestic abuse support contacts. • SBC staff - considerations include promoting organisational well-being for remote workforce. Promotion of individual and team self-care practices and MH first aider peer support.

Gender, Gender reassignment, Sexual orientation, and Pregnancy

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
All, with women and LGBT as high risk groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in rates of domestic violence and abuse during shielding/lockdown. • Could be fuelled by loss of income, increase in anxiety leading to drug/alcohol abuse and anger/frustration. • Abusers could take advantage of victim’s reduced social interaction with others. Lockdown/shielding will be terrifying for people already in abusive relationships. • Women are also at higher risk of increased sexual exploitation and abuse during pandemics. • Adolescent girls can be at increased risk of forced marriage, FGM and abuse during school closure. In some cases FGM has been used against lesbian/gay women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain dialogue with DVA agencies. • May need additional housing for DVA victims needing to isolate. Utilise empty holiday properties? • Communications about DVA (target perpetrator behaviour as well as where to get help for victims). • Look at innovative examples in China and Italy of utilising technology to address DVA. • For SBC staff: Remind staff and managers that they should speak to their manager if homeworking is not for them, alongside signposting to the sources of support for people (http://seattle/Pages/working-from-home-guidance.aspx). For people who need to maintain a degree of social distancing make adjustments such as allowing staff to drive in five days a week (where car parking restrictions apply) and to book a small meeting room from which to work/be given access to a small room such as a manager’s office.
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “Stay Safe at Home” campaign has been launched countywide by Essex Police. This is being shared by the Council. Part of the campaign focuses on domestic abuse and this part will be communicated locally. • Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 –our local hub is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. 	
LGBT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort already experience higher levels of loneliness and poor mental health. • Intersectionality of LGBT needs to be noted. • School/youth group closures and lockdowns could impact badly on LGBT youth – if not ‘out’ in family. Risk of isolation, self-harming etc. and unsafe online activity to socialise. Also an issue for adults in households where feel isolated from other LGBT people. • Social distancing’ policies of providers might have a greater impact for LGBT older people who rely on their external social networks for advocacy/ social contact in care settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help promote and support LGBT helplines and services linking up LGBT people to provide social contact over the phone/online. • Support LGBT youth organisations to provide safe means for LGBT young people to stay in touch. • Mitigation of potentially negative impact - include issues for equality groups in guidance and communications for inspectors and providers– based on providers assessing how to reduce social isolation for each person through care planning.

<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Social distancing’ policies of providers might have a higher impact for trans older people who rely on their external contacts for advocacy/ social contact in care settings • COVID-19 may have an impact on hospital bed availability which may have an impact on hospital accommodation issues for trans people (eg. availability of suitable bed space). • Social distancing policies of providers might have a higher impact for trans older people who have experienced discrimination and this may reinforce a sense of stigma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help promote and support LGBT helplines and services linking up LGBT people to provide social contact over the phone/online.
<p>Women, young people, neurodiverse/learning disability, homeless, mental ill health etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible increased risks of modern slavery/trafficking and cuckooing as fewer people out and about things may go unnoticed. • Perpetrators will take advantage of fewer visitors to a vulnerable person’s home. • Evidence of exploitation of domestic workers in other countries – e.g. being forced to work without a break. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train postal workers and delivery drivers in spotting signs as these workers remain out and about. The same action could be taken to raise awareness of safeguarding and DVA.
<p>Women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women make up the majority of the frontline health and social care workforce, so may be disproportionately likely to contract COVID19 • Women are more likely to be informal carers for older or disabled people, who are more likely to have serious illness as a result of COVID 19. • Women still bear the majority of caring responsibilities for both children and older relatives. With schools and nurseries now closing, the need for this unpaid work will only increase in the weeks to come. • Shortage of care services (childcare, healthcare, elderly care) will have a disproportionate impact on women as providers of unpaid care work. Coronavirus will exacerbate a situation where cuts to public spending have already fallen on women. [Amnesty] • There may be lapses in breast/cervical screening, increasing cancer risks. • Reluctance/inability to access sexual health clinics including dealing with unplanned pregnancy • According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies the low-paid, young people and women in the UK are likely to be the hardest hit by the coronavirus shutdown. women were a third more likely to work in a sector now shut down. 17% of female 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, including those who are pregnant and on maternity leave, should not be disadvantaged in their careers by following government advice to stay at home. [EHRC] • Clarity over attending screening/written reminders. • Clarity over accessing sexual health and family planning centres.

	<p>employees were in such sectors, compared to 13% of male employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southend has 93,100 females, 56,200 are of working age, and 50,100 are economically active. 	
Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies have shown that more men are being affected by COVID-19 than women. The WHO has reported that 63% of deaths have been among men. • 66.35% of COVID-19 deaths in Southend were male between 1st March and April 11th. • Between 1st March and 11th April, mortality rates for males and females are recorded as being higher than the WHO 63%. Of 80 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Southend during this period, 53 were male, and 27 female. • There have been 329 total deaths by all causes in Southend during the same period. This includes COVID-19 confirmed cases, any potentially unconfirmed cases, and all other causes. Of these 329 deaths, 174 were males and 155 females. • Southend has 89,400 males, 55,500 are of working age (16-64), and 50,100 are economically active. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Public Health England review has been announced. It will explore thousands of health records to review COVID-19 impacts, this will include gender, alongside measures such ethnicity, deprivation, age, and obesity.

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No differential impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Marriage and civil partnership

Religion or Belief

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
Faith/religion and belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess death – ability to observe religious practice at end of life / funeral. • “Social distancing” policies might have different impacts e.g. in terms of end of life care for people in different religious groups, for example, where it is more important in some religions that the person sees either their family or a religious or spiritual leader or official when they are nearing death. • Mosaic data for Southend identifies the groups more likely to be part of a religious group. These three groups are all aged 56-80, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement (11.4% of Southend’s households). - Families in large detached homes (6.98% of Southend’s households). - Residents of settled urban communities (4.98% of Southend’s households). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with faith/belief groups on plans/policy. • Check guidance such as https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/factsheets/death-funeral-rituals-in-world-religions/ but note that cremation is not acceptable under Islam. • Additional information from Muslim Council of Britain: https://mcb.org.uk/community/burialfaqs/ - in particular note the potential need to identify land for burial.
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two groups have been set up, one for the community at which council representation is not requested and, another for the local authority leads. • Excess death support is to work closely with faith groups and community leads. 	

Socio-Economic

		Suggested mitigating action:
Low income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Panic buying’ has had an impact on low income families who are unable to stockpile – leaving them with empty shelves when they need to pick up their essentials for the day/week. This mean them having to make more trips than usual to a shop. • They may also be more dependent upon public transport and be in lower income jobs – some of these are essential such as caring and retail (groceries). • 6.15% (4963 households) of Southend’s 80,758 households fall within the grouping of ‘Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet’. Characteristics of this grouping include; age 31-35, Terraced property, Household income <£15k, with children, Limited resources, Low cost home ownership/renting, Squeezed budgets. • According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies the low-paid, young people and women in the UK are likely to be the hardest hit by the coronavirus shutdown. Low earners are 7x more likely to have worked in a sector that is now shut down. A third of employees in the bottom 10th of the earnings distribution work in shut down sectors versus just 5% of those in the top ten per cent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support – foodbanks. Wider initiatives being implemented such as supermarket rationing and government support e.g. council tax relief. • Keeping allotments open – many people on low income ‘grow their own’ and this will help maintain food supply/alleviate pressure off of shops during growing season, and contribute to good health and wellbeing. Social distancing can be enforced on allotments by asking people to stay strictly on their own plots and having a safe system of unlocking the gate
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free school meals • Foodbanks • Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 –our local hub is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. 	
Rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural and urban communities are very different. Social distancing is much easier to apply in a rural setting. Policies which are applied to address social distancing issues in an urban setting could have an unnecessary disproportionate economic/wellbeing impact in a rural setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alert government of any policies where it could be beneficial to adapt a different approach in a rural setting.
Homeless people	This group is more at risk of illness/ill health in general, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted support via homeless

<p>(not a protected group but still needs consideration – often mental health/neuro-diverse/care leavers/ex-army)</p>	<p>may be unable to self isolate or maintain social distancing. There may be challenge in accessing information and advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tensions amongst the homeless community who may have experienced a drop in income from reduced city centre footfall have been reported to Devon and Cornwall Police 	<p>charities/district housing staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability for accommodation via empty hotels/B&Bs •
<p>SBC Provision:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All known rough sleepers were placed into accommodation. A media release was issued and can be read on our website 	

Carers / People with caring responsibilities

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clearing of hospitals to make way for coronavirus patients by releasing people early will put strain on those who care for others. Changes to the quality or availability of health and social care services during the COVID 19 outbreak are likely to have an impact on informal carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure care plans are in place and information is provided on where to get support/adaptive aids. Our response to the preparedness of services to deal with increased numbers of people will have an impact on carers

Further Reading:

- LGIU, Local government and Covid-19: issues for disadvantaged groups:
<https://lgiu.org/briefing/local-government-and-covid-19-issues-for-disadvantaged-groups/>
- [BBC News: Are minorities being hardest hit by coronavirus?](#)
- [BMJ blog: How can we involve communities in managing the Covid-19 pandemic?](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for the charity sector](#)
- [Guidance on Hardship Fund](#)
- [Mayor of London: Information on Covid-19 for non-UK nationals](#)
- [Race Equality Foundation: Coronavirus information and resources](#)
- [Runnymede Trust: Coronavirus will increase race inequalities, Zubaida Haque](#)
- [Scottish Community Development Centre: What community groups are telling us about their response to Covid-19](#)
- [Scottish government emergency help for those most affected by coronavirus](#)
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/how-were-responding-coronavirus-pandemic>
- [https://www.newLawjournal.co.uk/content/covid-19-impact-on-protected-groups](https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/covid-19-impact-on-protected-groups)
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/blogs/guest/psychological-impact-social-distancing-gender-sexuality-and-relationship-diverse>
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Responding%20to%20the%20coronavirus%20-%20psychological%20impact%20on%20older%20people.pdf>
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Coronavirus%20and%20UK%20schools%20closures%20-%20support%20and%20advice.pdf>
- <https://www.cebm.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BAME-COVID-Rapid-Data-Evidence-Review-Final-Hidden-in-Plain-Sight-compressed.pdf>

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director (Neighbourhoods &
Environment)

To

Cabinet

On

28 July 2020

Report prepared by: Simon Ford, Head of Community Safety

Agenda
Item No.

8

The Council's response to Overnight Camping (Notice of Motion)

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): Policy and Resources
Cabinet Member (Community Safety): Councillor Martin Terry

1. Purpose of Report

To provide a response to the following Notice of Motion as proposed by Cllr Davidson and Cllr Cox:

This Council shares public concern about the recent traveller incursions illegally occupying public open spaces and other areas in the Borough.

By their very nature, our public open spaces need to remain open and accessible to residents. Whilst the council uses a number of methods to seek to prevent illegal encampments on our public open spaces, this is difficult to achieve without stopping residents from accessing them.

The council therefore seeks to achieve a balance between actively discouraging illegal encampments and maintaining access for residents from those who are determined to set up illegal encampments without affecting residents' rights of access to their public open spaces.

This Council therefore resolves that it should:

1. Introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order which requires no person shall camp or sleep overnight with or without a tent, or using a motor or other vehicle, caravan or any other mobile or static structure [in a public place to which the public or a section of the public has or is permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise] without the express prior written consent of the Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** That Cabinet note the proposed NOM and note the current inability of either the council or the police to enforced a Public Spaces Protection Order as set out in the Notice of Motion.
- 2.2** That Cabinet continue to support / agree the current process by which the Council and Essex Police approach traveller sites / the traveller community in Southend.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Borough of Southend has had a history of traveller incursions and continues to do so as do many other localities across Essex and nationally. By no means is Southend considered one of the Counties 'hotspots' for traveller sites, or consistently targeted in large numbers by the traveller community. The Borough tends to experience annually, a limited number of incursions at various sites across the Borough. Generally, this happens more in the summertime.
- 3.2** So far in 2020, the Borough has had 5 incursions at sites which have included Trinity Sports Ground, Shoebury Park and St Marys Field. In each of these sites Essex Police and the Council work together through a recognised legal process which seeks to evict the travellers gathered.
- 3.3** The current eviction process is a collaborative approach between Essex Police and the council. The police have advised that they consider our current process to be the best course of action to *safely* engage and evict any incursion. It is one that is used across Essex and the UK by many police and council teams.
- 3.4** Police and Council teams recognise that the current process can be slow in relation to turn around times from incursion to eviction, but generally the community, once served notice, or warned that notice is going to be served, leave on their own accord. Very rarely (certainly in Southend) have police and council teams had to forcibly evict travellers from a site. A forcible eviction is something that is not favoured by Police, in that it can lead to escalation of violence and property damage, including the risk of injury to officers. The current eviction process is implemented quickly upon intelligence being received that travellers have camped at any site in Southend. Normally incursions take place in the evening, which is followed swiftly by police and council teams visiting the site the very next day. Whilst the eviction process gets under way, police and council teams will monitor the site daily.

4.0. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1** Introducing a Borough wide PSPO to prohibit overnight camping (primarily aimed at the traveller community) would be extremely difficult to secure and to enforce. The PSPO process in itself is a lengthy process which involves wide stakeholder and public consultation. Furthermore, courts across the nation rarely allow, if ever, *locality wide PSPO prohibitions*. Locality wide PSPO's if being considered are often rigorously challenged by various groups such as Liberty.

4.2 PSPO's are designed to target persistent anti-social behaviour issues within a **defined area** of a locality such as town centre, a seafront or a park (supported by substantive evidence of the activity in that specific location). This is referred to as the PSPO zone. Listed prohibitions are contained within the PSPO, which if breached, allow police and community safety officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to the perpetrator once name and address have been verified. The perpetrator has a two week period to pay the FPN fine or appeal. If the perpetrator fails to pay the fine – a prosecution file is sent to court (either led by the council or police legal teams). In Southend, there is a current PSPO in place which covers the town centre and seafront areas. The PSPO contains a number of prohibitions (see attached Order).

4.3 To introduce a PSPO which prohibited overnight camping across the whole Borough would not only be a significant challenge to achieve, but extremely difficult to enforce (specifically if it were to address traveller incursions). As mentioned above, breaching a PSPO requires an officer (police or community safety) to verify the offenders name and address in order to serve the FPN. To effect this process on a camp of travellers (sometimes up to 20 vans) and verify each families name and address would be virtually impossible and impractical. (not to mention officer safety). Even if that were to be completed, the likelihood of any of them paying the fine or being summoned for court attendance (and attending) would be extremely unlikely. Introducing such a process would potentially create an administrative monster for legal teams - which ultimately could interfere with the normal route of legal eviction.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Southend Borough Council are represented on Essex Countywide Council's Traveller Community Engagement Group which monitors and looks at how localities across Essex both provide support and prosecute (evict) traveller families. There is unlikely to be support for this action as it is unenforceable

6.0 Financial Implications - Nil

7.0 Legal Implications – as noted above.

8.0 People Implications - Nil

9.0 Property Implications - Nil

10.0 Equalities and Diversity Implications –

10.1 Detailed E and D risk assessments would have to take place if the Council were to target traveller communities through PSPO route. Likely challenge by groups such as Liberty

11.0 Risk Assessment – yes

12.0 Value for Money – Non specific

13.0 Community Safety Implications
Addressed in the report

14.0 Environmental Impact –

14.1 recognised that such groups can at times cause significant damage and detritus whilst sited at locations across the Borough

15.0. Background Papers – Southend’s current PSPO

Race

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
BAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People from BAME communities are being disproportionately affected by the virus. This includes healthcare workers, with the overwhelming majority of those who have died being from BAME communities. • BAME groups are overrepresented among critically ill Covid-19 patients, 35% of all critical patients (The Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre) • Rapid data and evidence reviews have indicated that BME groups are at increased risk of developing and dying from COVID-29. The risk for Black African groups was 3.24 times higher than the general population; Pakistani groups by 3.29; Bangladeshi groups 2.21; Black Caribbean groups 2.21 higher, and Indian groups 1.7 times higher. • Causes appear to include overrepresentation in lower socio-economic groups, multi-family and multi-generational households, disproportionate employment in lower-band key worker roles, and co-morbidities (especially cardiovascular and diabetes). (Razaq, Harrison, Karunanithi, Barr, Asaria, Khunti, 2020) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Public Health England review into the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic has been announced. It will explore thousands of health records to review COVID-19 impacts by ethnicity alongside measures such as deprivation, age, gender, and obesity. • Recommendations from BME groups to back review using local real-time data • Recommendation to record protected characteristics of all patients in hospital • value <p>Of 173,658 Southend residents in the 2011 census, non-white ethnicities form 8.1% of the population;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1% Mixed / Multiple ethnic group (3651) • 2.1% Black / African / Caribbean / Black British (3,647) • 1.04% Asian / Asian British: Indian (1,810) • 0.89% Asian / Asian British: Other Asian (1,554) • 0.62% Asian / Asian British: Chinese (1,084) • 0.61% Asian / Asian British: Pakistani (1,059) • 0.54% Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi (933) • 0.51% Other Ethnic Group (897) • 0.09% Gypsy / Traveller / Irish Traveller (162).
BAME (particularly Chinese or perceived Chinese).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in hate crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Police with messages around hate crime. • Messages that promote positive contribution of BAME people during the crisis. • DCC information on reporting is available at: https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/reportincidents/hatecrime
BAME – asylum seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ face additional barriers and insecurity as they cannot access life-saving refuges and are barred from other forms of public support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID 19 exempt from NHS charging – but need to ensure this is communicated to healthcare workers and people who may be concerned about receiving healthcare.
BAME with families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling trapped and isolated as unable to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure BAME groups are included in district hub

abroad	<p>connect with families during reduced travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of emotional and practical support reduced. 	<p>arrangements for targeted/community support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All organisations with high level BAME workforce to promote workplace wellbeing support. A message of acknowledgement to all staff who have families overseas during this difficult time may make people feel that we are thinking of them.
BAME, young, carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workplace has changed since the 2008 economic crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to mitigate financial hardship will be essential for gig economy workers – who still have very few protections in employment law, and are more likely to be younger, from an ethnic minority, or have caring commitments – if they must self-isolate. [EHRC]
Gypsy and travelling communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tend not to be registered with GP. Higher levels of poor health. Restricted movement leads to loss of income. Traditional travelling season starts as virus is predicted to peak. If they do move and encamp, community tensions could be higher than usual. In addition, may not be able to evict as quickly. Some campervan/motorhome users (not GRT) have been travelling/setting up encampments in order to distance themselves from others. This has a negative impact by bringing the virus to rural communities which are already disadvantaged by poorer access to services. However, while sites have been closed to prevent this it should be noted that some people live permanently on the road or live between two or more sites (but don't identify as GRT) and may be forced to live in unsuitable locations such as residential roads. issue of access to water on site. those on winter sites will still need to move. site visits could put people at risk. evictions will result in movement of people – could put people at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted dialogue (nationally and locally) with GRT communities to ensure they understand what is happening and identify what support is needed for those who will need to be shielding. Monitor impact of holiday site closures on people permanently resident in campervans/mobile homes. If necessary, open sites in suitable areas to allow access for this cohort. <p>Existing encampments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring provision of water bowser. •reduce site visits to 'essential only' and observe social distancing rules. only evict if absolutely necessary. This article in the Irish Times highlights the issues faced by travelling communities. It gives examples, such as Galway City Council established a dedicated unit to monitor the impact of the pandemic on Travellers. It has provided extra portaloos, repaired heating where broken and provided alternative off-site accommodation to families in overcrowded conditions. Twice-weekly teleconferences between HSE Traveller Health Units and Traveller groups had "been really good... [allowing] local groups to raise issues as they emerge".
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 –our local hub is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. Residents are also able to access financial help, benefits, employment support and housing advice. 	

Disability

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
All disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shielded individuals face increased mental health risks in prolonged isolation. This is seen in reporting, as a third of disabled adults reported spending too much time alone during shielding. • Non-shielded yet vulnerable individuals may face increased risk to contracting COVID-19 if making additional visits to access health services. • COVID-19 related deaths are not routinely being published for this group, in line with other protected groups. • 45.1% of disabled adults felt worried about COVID-19 vs a third of non-disabled adults. Two thirds (64.8%) felt COVID-19 concerns affected their wellbeing (Opinions and Lifestyle survey, ONS, 2020). 	<p>PHE is analysing COVID-19 deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A learning disabilities mortality review will publish COVID-19 data. •
Deaf people/Hard of Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited understanding of English; require information in BSL. • Very little information about coronavirus has been made available/promoted in BSL. • Encouraging/use of phone contact during social isolation – not suitable for people with profound/severe hearing loss. Facemasks are problematic for people who lip read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide important information in BSL video or Easy Read. BSL should be made available where this could be considered a ‘reasonable adjustment’. • Provide BSL interpreter ‘in vision’ signing as part of important spoken word video/TV. Subtitles are NOT accessible to Deaf people. • Ensure staff/volunteers have basic BSL skills and know how to access a remote video interpreting service if they are likely to come into contact with Deaf people (for example, if dropping off supplies to home of Deaf resident as part of targeted support for people who are shielding). • Provide BSL video versions for key information on websites. Alternatively, allow Deaf people to access the remote video interpreting service (via a link on the webpage) in order to have key information about the pandemic from the website translated where this isn’t already provided in BSL video (it is probably more cost effective to produce BSL video translation for static information if there is demand). • Include options for SMS contact to helplines etc. • Recognise that for some, face to face visiting is the only

		<p>option. (Find out who these people are).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide SMS and email contact routes. • Provision of clear face masks needed. • Hearing assistive technology products available to purchase via the Action on Hearing Loss online shop.
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC can provide information in different formats such as large print, Braille, British Sign Language and in the many different languages and dialects spoken in Southend. • British Sign Language resources on Home Isolation produced by Public Health England. Public Health England have released new British Sign Language (BSL) guidance. PHE campaign resources in BSL: • https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5080 • BSL users can talk to NHS111 using the InterpreterNOW app (registration is required). They can also connect via a PC or laptop. 	
Partially sighted/Blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut off because suitable means of communication not as widely available and familiar things may change and put them at risk, e.g. shop layouts, items on shelves. If alone, will be wary of opening door to strangers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority/first tranche group for targeted support for people who are shielding? • Ensure written information available in audio and large print where required, or via phone contact. • Ensure web based information is compliant with new web accessibility legislation so that it works with screen-readers •
SBC Provision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southend Coronavirus Action (SCA) Helpline has launched. This is for residents that may need support and help with basic tasks like grocery shopping/picking up medication, or who feel isolated and do not have a local support network in place. • Helpline advertised via a radio campaign 	
Long term health condition, but not in coronavirus high risk group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties getting prescription medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local volunteer prescription delivery support
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeployed council staff working on the helpline have also arranged for prescriptions and medicines to be delivered. 	
Community support initiatives – dropping off prescriptions Learning disability or limited English language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of translations or information in Easy Read from central government (only one example seen so far – 25th March). • Complex and changing information difficult to understand and follow. • Potential higher risk of falsely reported visitors – There were 8 reports of ‘residential visitors’ made (25/03/20 - 05/04/20). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use consistent, plain English in all communications • Provide written/online information in Easy Read format. • Include an ‘alternative format statement’ in all correspondence. • Provide information in foreign language on request or if it is known the person requires it. • Ensure call centres have access to, and know how to use, a foreign language telephone interpreting service. • Promote any government/official guidance that is provided in alternative formats/languages, for example: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5080

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing guidance in Easy Read, Larger Print and BSL https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people • https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/# Information in more community languages, matches NHS guidelines and they are currently translating the Stay at Home guidance too
SBC provision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC can provide information in different formats such as large print, Braille, British Sign Language and in the many different languages and dialects spoken in Southend. • Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 – this is our local hub and is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. 	
SEN – disability/young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reduced number of children still able to attend school will only constitute a small proportion of all children with special educational needs, and the dispensation for councils to reduce support to these pupils will have a profound impact on families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such decisions should be taken only when ‘strictly necessary’ and for the shortest time possible, as set out in the legislation. [EHRC • Relaxed regulations enabling this group to exercise more frequently than others throughout lockdown has been effective.
Neurodiversity and all groups with communication difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of direct instruction and use of metaphor unhelpful. • Inconsistencies in messages can be confusing. • There have been numerous cases of information being changed slightly – for example “avoid all non-essential contact and travel” became “avoid all contact and non-essential travel” on BBC Spotlight. These subtle changes in the message can cause confusion. • Changes between 7 day and 14 day isolation has confused people as has “essential work”, “travel to work when it can be done at home” and “critical work”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use plain English. Be direct – don’t shy away from giving people firm instruction. • Stick to the script. • Be consistent and avoid changing messages without being clear of the reasons for the change. • Ask that news/media follow these principles too • Resource:https://www.dimensionsforautism.life/devon-autism-guide • PHE is analysing COVID-19 deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism.
Neurodiverse people/autistic people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled people find change in routine particularly difficult. • For autistic people, change can be traumatic. For example, autistic people are selective eaters and panic buying has resulted in certain food items becoming unavailable. This will create stress not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully consider who will be a point of contact for neurodiverse people and provide training where necessary in targeted support for people who are shielding. • Find out if able to meet needs of selective eaters if distributing food parcels. • Wellbeing support for parents/carers under strain.

	<p>only for an autistic person but also their parent/carer or people living with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may also be selective about who they speak to and prefer to have the same care worker/point of contact. • (is there someone around use of PPE and masks being a particular issue for those with autism?) 	
<p>Neurodiverse people/autistic people/dementia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People arrested (and released) for complex behaviour associated with the current situation (25th March - 3 in Devon to date). • Staying indoors might not be possible and thus they are putting themselves and others at risk. But to take a punitive approach would not be helpful here either. • Those with ADHD may need a lot of exercise and may need to go out more than once a day for exercise. • Anxiety caused from the disruption to routine is already causing people difficulty sometimes with the result of 'meltdown' which can result in verbal or physical aggression. • Those who are not known to social care may struggle to engage with the various social networks that are being set up to support communities so are more at risk of isolation resulting in lack of essentials such as food and medication if they are ill. • It will be difficult for some care homes with specific resident groups such as learning disabilities / dementias to adhering to isolation advice and policies, some residents will not understand / comply with the advice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the police that autistic people and especially those with ADHD may find it difficult to comply with instructions that they cannot comprehend, and because they perceive the world differently and may have very fixed thinking patterns, it is not always easy or even possible to sway their thinking. • Advise the police to receive autism training for example, not to touch. • Work with autistic/ADHD people to try and help them understand that what they consider important might not be so important in the current circumstances.
<p>Dementia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties coping with change – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority/first tranche for targeted support for people who

	<p>particularly where items in shops are no longer available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members unable to visit and check in on relatives • Day centres closed creating additional pressure of carers 	<p>are shielding?</p>
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments to delivery of psychological services • Effects of confinement and social distancing – specific challenges for those with existing MH concerns, children, those with ASD. • Impact of job insecurity • Management of psychological difficulties incl. PTSD, confusion. <p>SBC Internal workforce Impact on our colleagues due to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing • Homeworking • Lockdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate and effective use of online services • Mitigation of social isolation through promotion of online/telephone services • Promotion of physical activity/exercise • Mental health and domestic abuse support contacts. • SBC staff - considerations include promoting organisational well-being for remote workforce. Promotion of individual and team self-care practices and MH first aider peer support.

Gender, Gender reassignment, Sexual orientation, and Pregnancy

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
All, with women and LGBT as high risk groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in rates of domestic violence and abuse during shielding/lockdown. • Could be fuelled by loss of income, increase in anxiety leading to drug/alcohol abuse and anger/frustration. • Abusers could take advantage of victim’s reduced social interaction with others. Lockdown/shielding will be terrifying for people already in abusive relationships. • Women are also at higher risk of increased sexual exploitation and abuse during pandemics. • Adolescent girls can be at increased risk of forced marriage, FGM and abuse during school closure. In some cases FGM has been used against lesbian/gay women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain dialogue with DVA agencies. • May need additional housing for DVA victims needing to isolate. Utilise empty holiday properties? • Communications about DVA (target perpetrator behaviour as well as where to get help for victims). • Look at innovative examples in China and Italy of utilising technology to address DVA. • For SBC staff: Remind staff and managers that they should speak to their manager if homeworking is not for them, alongside signposting to the sources of support for people (http://seattle/Pages/working-from-home-guidance.aspx). For people who need to maintain a degree of social distancing make adjustments such as allowing staff to drive in five days a week (where car parking restrictions apply) and to book a small meeting room from which to work/be given access to a small room such as a manager’s office.
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “Stay Safe at Home” campaign has been launched countywide by Essex Police. This is being shared by the Council. Part of the campaign focuses on domestic abuse and this part will be communicated locally. • Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 –our local hub is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. 	
LGBT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort already experience higher levels of loneliness and poor mental health. • Intersectionality of LGBT needs to be noted. • School/youth group closures and lockdowns could impact badly on LGBT youth – if not ‘out’ in family. Risk of isolation, self-harming etc. and unsafe online activity to socialise. Also an issue for adults in households where feel isolated from other LGBT people. • Social distancing’ policies of providers might have a greater impact for LGBT older people who rely on their external social networks for advocacy/ social contact in care settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help promote and support LGBT helplines and services linking up LGBT people to provide social contact over the phone/online. • Support LGBT youth organisations to provide safe means for LGBT young people to stay in touch. • Mitigation of potentially negative impact - include issues for equality groups in guidance and communications for inspectors and providers– based on providers assessing how to reduce social isolation for each person through care planning.

<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Social distancing’ policies of providers might have a higher impact for trans older people who rely on their external contacts for advocacy/ social contact in care settings • COVID-19 may have an impact on hospital bed availability which may have an impact on hospital accommodation issues for trans people (eg. availability of suitable bed space). • Social distancing policies of providers might have a higher impact for trans older people who have experienced discrimination and this may reinforce a sense of stigma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help promote and support LGBT helplines and services linking up LGBT people to provide social contact over the phone/online.
<p>Women, young people, neurodiverse/learning disability, homeless, mental ill health etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible increased risks of modern slavery/trafficking and cuckooing as fewer people out and about things may go unnoticed. • Perpetrators will take advantage of fewer visitors to a vulnerable person’s home. • Evidence of exploitation of domestic workers in other countries – e.g. being forced to work without a break. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train postal workers and delivery drivers in spotting signs as these workers remain out and about. The same action could be taken to raise awareness of safeguarding and DVA.
<p>Women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women make up the majority of the frontline health and social care workforce, so may be disproportionately likely to contract COVID19 • Women are more likely to be informal carers for older or disabled people, who are more likely to have serious illness as a result of COVID 19. • Women still bear the majority of caring responsibilities for both children and older relatives. With schools and nurseries now closing, the need for this unpaid work will only increase in the weeks to come. • Shortage of care services (childcare, healthcare, elderly care) will have a disproportionate impact on women as providers of unpaid care work. Coronavirus will exacerbate a situation where cuts to public spending have already fallen on women. [Amnesty] • There may be lapses in breast/cervical screening, increasing cancer risks. • Reluctance/inability to access sexual health clinics including dealing with unplanned pregnancy • According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies the low-paid, young people and women in the UK are likely to be the hardest hit by the coronavirus shutdown. women were a third more likely to work in a sector now shut down. 17% of female 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, including those who are pregnant and on maternity leave, should not be disadvantaged in their careers by following government advice to stay at home. [EHRC] • Clarity over attending screening/written reminders. • Clarity over accessing sexual health and family planning centres.

	<p>employees were in such sectors, compared to 13% of male employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southend has 93,100 females, 56,200 are of working age, and 50,100 are economically active. 	
Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies have shown that more men are being affected by COVID-19 than women. The WHO has reported that 63% of deaths have been among men. • 66.35% of COVID-19 deaths in Southend were male between 1st March and April 11th. • Between 1st March and 11th April, mortality rates for males and females are recorded as being higher than the WHO 63%. Of 80 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Southend during this period, 53 were male, and 27 female. • There have been 329 total deaths by all causes in Southend during the same period. This includes COVID-19 confirmed cases, any potentially unconfirmed cases, and all other causes. Of these 329 deaths, 174 were males and 155 females. • Southend has 89,400 males, 55,500 are of working age (16-64), and 50,100 are economically active. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Public Health England review has been announced. It will explore thousands of health records to review COVID-19 impacts, this will include gender, alongside measures such ethnicity, deprivation, age, and obesity.

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No differential impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Marriage and civil partnership

Religion or Belief

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
Faith/religion and belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess death – ability to observe religious practice at end of life / funeral. • “Social distancing” policies might have different impacts e.g. in terms of end of life care for people in different religious groups, for example, where it is more important in some religions that the person sees either their family or a religious or spiritual leader or official when they are nearing death. • Mosaic data for Southend identifies the groups more likely to be part of a religious group. These three groups are all aged 56-80, and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement (11.4% of Southend’s households). - Families in large detached homes (6.98% of Southend’s households). - Residents of settled urban communities (4.98% of Southend’s households). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with faith/belief groups on plans/policy. • Check guidance such as https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/factsheets/death-funeral-rituals-in-world-religions/ but note that cremation is not acceptable under Islam. • Additional information from Muslim Council of Britain: https://mcb.org.uk/community/burialfaqs/ - in particular note the potential need to identify land for burial.
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two groups have been set up, one for the community at which council representation is not requested and, another for the local authority leads. • Excess death support is to work closely with faith groups and community leads. 	

Socio-Economic

		Suggested mitigating action:
Low income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Panic buying’ has had an impact on low income families who are unable to stockpile – leaving them with empty shelves when they need to pick up their essentials for the day/week. This mean them having to make more trips than usual to a shop. • They may also be more dependent upon public transport and be in lower income jobs – some of these are essential such as caring and retail (groceries). • 6.15% (4963 households) of Southend’s 80,758 households fall within the grouping of ‘Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet’. Characteristics of this grouping include; age 31-35, Terraced property, Household income <£15k, with children, Limited resources, Low cost home ownership/renting, Squeezed budgets. • According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies the low-paid, young people and women in the UK are likely to be the hardest hit by the coronavirus shutdown. Low earners are 7x more likely to have worked in a sector that is now shut down. A third of employees in the bottom 10th of the earnings distribution work in shut down sectors versus just 5% of those in the top ten per cent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support – foodbanks. Wider initiatives being implemented such as supermarket rationing and government support e.g. council tax relief. • Keeping allotments open – many people on low income ‘grow their own’ and this will help maintain food supply/alleviate pressure off of shops during growing season, and contribute to good health and wellbeing. Social distancing can be enforced on allotments by asking people to stay strictly on their own plots and having a safe system of unlocking the gate
SBC Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free school meals • Foodbanks • Southend Coronavirus Action on 01702 212497 –our local hub is providing the local infrastructure to deliver supplies to those people with no other means of support and to ensure that no-one slips through the net. 	
Rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural and urban communities are very different. Social distancing is much easier to apply in a rural setting. Policies which are applied to address social distancing issues in an urban setting could have an unnecessary disproportionate economic/wellbeing impact in a rural setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alert government of any policies where it could be beneficial to adapt a different approach in a rural setting.
Homeless people	This group is more at risk of illness/ill health in general, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted support via homeless

<p>(not a protected group but still needs consideration – often mental health/neuro-diverse/care leavers/ex-army)</p>	<p>may be unable to self isolate or maintain social distancing. There may be challenge in accessing information and advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tensions amongst the homeless community who may have experienced a drop in income from reduced city centre footfall have been reported to Devon and Cornwall Police 	<p>charities/district housing staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability for accommodation via empty hotels/B&Bs •
<p>SBC Provision:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All known rough sleepers were placed into accommodation. A media release was issued and can be read on our website 	

Carers / People with caring responsibilities

	Impact	Suggested mitigating action:
Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clearing of hospitals to make way for coronavirus patients by releasing people early will put strain on those who care for others. Changes to the quality or availability of health and social care services during the COVID 19 outbreak are likely to have an impact on informal carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure care plans are in place and information is provided on where to get support/adaptive aids. Our response to the preparedness of services to deal with increased numbers of people will have an impact on carers

Further Reading:

- LGiU, Local government and Covid-19: issues for disadvantaged groups:
<https://lgiu.org/briefing/local-government-and-covid-19-issues-for-disadvantaged-groups/>
- [BBC News: Are minorities being hardest hit by coronavirus?](#)
- [BMJ blog: How can we involve communities in managing the Covid-19 pandemic?](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for the charity sector](#)
- [Guidance on Hardship Fund](#)
- [Mayor of London: Information on Covid-19 for non-UK nationals](#)
- [Race Equality Foundation: Coronavirus information and resources](#)
- [Runnymede Trust: Coronavirus will increase race inequalities, Zubaida Haque](#)
- [Scottish Community Development Centre: What community groups are telling us about their response to Covid-19](#)
- [Scottish government emergency help for those most affected by coronavirus](#)
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/how-were-responding-coronavirus-pandemic>
- [https://www.newLawjournal.co.uk/content/covid-19-impact-on-protected-groups](https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/covid-19-impact-on-protected-groups)
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/blogs/guest/psychological-impact-social-distancing-gender-sexuality-and-relationship-diverse>
- <https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Responding%20to%20the%20coronavirus%20-%20psychological%20impact%20on%20older%20people.pdf>
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- <https://www.cebm.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BAME-COVID-Rapid-Data-Evidence-Review-Final-Hidden-in-Plain-Sight-compressed.pdf>

