

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 7

meeting date: THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2020  
title: UPDATE ON COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the local response to the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Corporate Priorities - To help make people's lives safer and healthier

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China. As of 7am on 6 March 2020, 20,338 people have been tested in the UK, of which 20,175 were confirmed negative and 163 were confirmed as positive. One patient who tested positive for COVID-19 has died.

## 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council is actively participating in the national response plan through the mechanism of the Lancashire Resilience Forum. The three stages in the approach to Coronavirus (Covid-19) impact are 'Containment', 'Delay' and 'Mitigate' and we are currently entering the Delay stage of this process.
- 3.2 Lancashire County Council have activated their Corporate Emergency Response Plan. This creates the following;

### Corporate Emergency Response Team

- Chaired by a Director (who represents LCC on the Strategic Control Group);
- Representatives from key services such as Adults, Childrens, Comms, HR (Head of Service level);
- Key actions include ALL services to review their Service Resilience Plans – these are the response and business continuity actions for each service;
- Service Resilience Plans contain BC sections for Pandemic and Loss of Staff.

The Emergency Duty Officer for LCC will be the Tactical Emergency Coordinator and link into the Tactical Control Group.

3.3 RVBC, as part of the Lancashire Resilience Forum, will operate the following levels of response and engage with the appropriate groups:

- Corporate Management Team will participate in the Strategic level i.e. the assessment and allocation of necessary resources.
- Heads of Service will participate at the Tactical level i.e review and implement as necessary the business continuity plans for each service area.

3.4 Each group will participate in weekly Lancashire-wide telephone conferences to update and be updated on the local, regional and national requirements.

3.5 RVBC will continue to follow Government advice.

#### 4 **CONCLUSION**

4.1 That Committee note the work on Covid-19 through the Lancashire Resilience Forum.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Ken Robinson, extension 4466.