

Resources Scrutiny Committee

19th August 2020

Covid-19 Recovery and Reset EAP - Methodology

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Corporate Development and Change

Executive Director: John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Sarah Longdon
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Report Status: Public

Recommendation: To note the approach and method used to analyse and prepare the programme for recovery and reset.

Reason for Recommendation: For clarification and transparency.

1. Executive Summary

The report sets out the setting up of the EAP, its purpose, scope and method used to identify the priorities for Dorset Council in its planning for recovery and reset.

2. Financial Implications

None identified

3. Climate implications

None identified

4. Other Implications

None identified

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality and diversity is one of the subjects reviewed by the panel. Details are provided in the body of the report.

7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

None

9. Executive Advisory Panel – Covid-19 Recovery and Reset methodology

9.1 The EAP was established on 10th June 2020 with the purpose to guide the council's work to recover from the Covid-19 epidemic and to provide a reset function where appropriate. It is a Task and Finish group which will complete its business within a reasonably short finite period. The final meeting is scheduled for 30th September 2020.

9.2 The work of the panel is broken down in to the following four phases:

Phase 1: to consider the impact of Covid-19 on the council and review the work commenced by officers to deal with the ongoing operation of the council's services in a Covid-secure manner, and to provide guidance for the preparation of an outline plan.

Phase 2: to review and sign-off the council's initial Recovery & Reset Plan.

Phase 3: to monitor the implementation of the plan and ensure that actions are completed in a timely manner to restore the council’s “normal” functioning. This will include ensuring that the positive benefits which have occurred are sustained as far as we can.

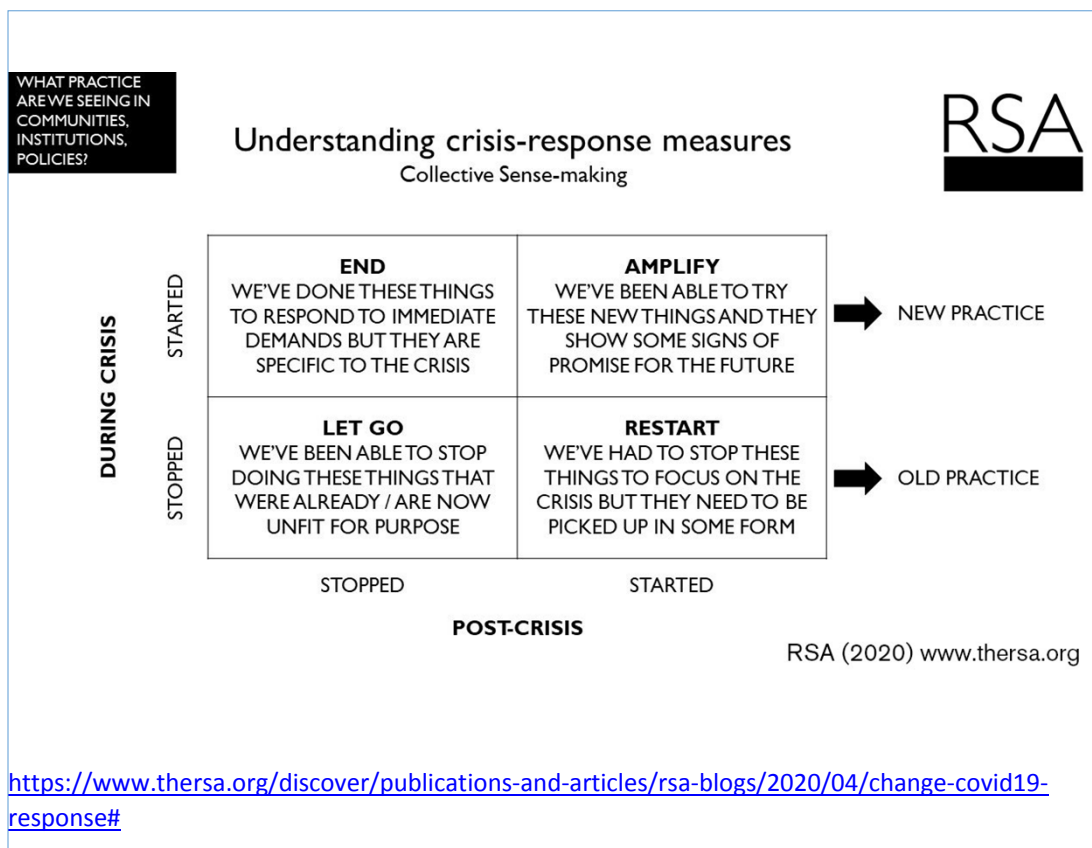
Phase 4: to ensure that the recovery work is ended at the appropriate time and that the council resumes “normal” operations, whatever they might be. This Phase will also ensure that the actions in the Recovery Plan have been completed satisfactorily or remain to be monitored as part of “Business as usual”.

9.3 The focus of the EAP will be around the following five workstreams:

- Community
- Economy
- Workforce
- Partnerships
- Learning lessons from the epidemic, for the future

9.4 The Terms of Reference were agreed at the first meeting, and have been reviewed at each subsequent meeting to make sure they remains appropriate and relevant.

9.5 At the first meeting on 10th June the panel carried out an impact assessment workshop to identify the recovery and reset priorities based on the model below:



This method supports the focus on thinking about impacts of Covid-19 in terms of stopping things that are no longer relevant or appropriate, and starting or maintaining things that are priorities or new practice

9.6 The workshop also looked at impacts in relation to the council's five priorities as set out in the Council Plan.

9.7 The output from the workshop was a programme of work that the panel has examined in its subsequent meetings, where lead councillors and officers have explained the work that has been taking place to manage the impact and recover to normal service levels, while taking on board opportunities to reset and redefine a new state.

The table below sets out the programme of priorities for the panel.

24th June

Item	Link to council plan	Presenting
Address planning framework to be more flexible and rapid, support businesses quickly, remove backlog	Economic growth	Cllr David Walsh, Matthew Piles
Temporary relaxation of planning so pubs and cafes can make use of outside space	Economic growth	Cllr David Walsh, Matthew Piles, Mike Westwood
Support high streets with social distancing. Not one size fits all, tailored help needed. Listed buildings limitations. Work with and support town councils	Economic growth	Cllr David Walsh, Matthew Piles, David Walsh, Mike Westwood
Impacts on EU exit plans	Economic growth	John Sellgren
Manage tension between visitors and residents while restrictions in place	Staying safe and well	Cllr David Walsh, Matthew Piles
Financial recovery. financial situation will affect recovery plans. What government funding will be available, what will the council stop doing to meet budget gap		Aidan Dunn

8th July

Item	Link to council plan	Presenting
Impact of long term shielding on vulnerable people, and on council service provision	Staying safe and well	Cllr Laura Miller, Theresa Leavy, Vivienne Broadhurst
Impacts on students living away from place of registered healthcare	Staying safe and well	Cllr Laura Miller, Rachel Partridge
How to open schools fully in September with social distancing. Transport, classes. Impacts on students	Strong, healthy communities	Cllr Andrew Parry, Mark Blackman
Covid-19 is a movable situation, be aware of wider picture of epidemic in future	Strong, healthy communities	Rachel Partridge
Maintain good habits, more exercise, use of open space	Staying safe and well	Cllr Laura Miller, Rachel Partridge, Vivienne Broadhurst
Improve green transport (using new government money for new cycle routes).	Unique environment	Cllr Ray Bryan, Matthew Piles
Review bus links, better connections so people use public transport more	Unique environment	Cllr Ray Bryan, Matthew Piles
Maintain reduced level of business mileage	Unique environment	Cllr Ray Bryan, Matthew Piles
Economy and skills EAP update	Economic growth	Cllr Gary Suttle, David Walsh

22nd July

Item	Link to council plan	Presenting
Supporting people in temporary accommodation, use our properties for accommodation where there is infrastructure to help, avoid tension with community	Sustainable housing	Rebecca Kirk

Disperse homeless population where they have connections	Sustainable housing	Rebecca Kirk
Review Homes Dorset	Sustainable housing	Rebecca Kirk
Diversity & Inclusion		Cllr Peter Wharf, Susan Ward-Rice, Becky Forrester
Workforce – Impact of homeworking on mental health.		Cllr Peter Wharf, David McIntosh
Numbers and skills of workforce, options to redeploy and rebalance		Cllr Peter Wharf, David McIntosh, Debs Smart
Digital work during the pandemic		Cllr Peter Wharf, Debs Smart
Interim findings		Matt Prosser
Hybrid meetings		Jonathan Mair

5th August

Item	Link to council plan	Presenting
Impact on care home provision, financial viability, risk of closure	Staying safe and well	Cllr Laura Miller, Vivienne Broadhurst
Impact on social care from healthcare backlogs	Staying safe and well	Cllr Laura Miller, Vivienne Broadhurst
Maintain better partnership working and integration, enhanced trust	Staying safe and well	Cllr Laura Miller, Vivienne Broadhurst
Support non-covid elements of community, that have been put on hold. Use asset review opportunities, more secure community infrastructure	Strong, healthy communities	Cllr Tony Alford, Cllr Laura Miller, Vivienne Broadhurst

Communities have been doing it for themselves successfully, with parish councils, however not all communities have good volunteer capacity	Strong, healthy communities	Cllr Tony Alford , Cllr Laura Miller, Vivienne Broadhurst
Maintain improved relationships, continue to promote community groups	Strong, healthy communities	Cllr Tony Alford , Cllr Laura Miller, Vivienne Broadhurst
Opportunity to drive climate agenda	Unique environment	Cllr Ray Bryan , Karyn Punchard, Ken Buchan
Reduced use of offices and resources	Unique environment	Cllr Ray Bryan , Karyn Punchard, Ken Buchan
Encourage increased interest in nature, wildflowers, and increase outdoor exercise	Unique environment	Cllr Ray Bryan , Karyn Punchard, Ken Buchan
Finance update		Jim McManus

30th September

Item	Link to council plan	Presenting
Legal and Democratic		Cllr Spencer Flower , Jonathan Mair
Finance update		Aidan Dunn
Concluding findings		Cllr Peter Wharf , John Sellgren, Matt Prosser

9.8 Throughout this period councillors and officers have been taking action as appropriate, responding to the rapidly changing situation and incorporating opportunities to reset as they go. They have been updating the EAP on this work as well as indicating future plans for further recovery actions.

9.9 The meeting on 30th September will consider a report setting out the findings of the panel and a summary of the work for Dorset Council to recover its services and reset priorities as a result of the experience during the pandemic. If at that point there is still work to complete then the group has the option to hold another meeting. When the EAP has concluded the work will be handed to a Scrutiny Committee.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.