

APPENDIX 2

COVID-19 STEVENAGE CO-OPERATIVE RECOVERY TASKFORCE

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

To co-operatively restore the social economic, environmental well-being of residents of Stevenage and ensure that the whole borough recovers from the Covid-19 outbreak stronger, more resilient and with a renewed community purpose.

Objectives

The Taskforce will help shape and oversee the delivery of town wide recovery plans.

The Covid-19 Stevenage Co-Operative Recovery Taskforce will:

- Provide a co-operative partnership approach to determine Stevenage's recovery response to Covid-19;
- Play a significant role in ensuring the coordinated delivery of the recovery response ;
- Influence, inform and where relevant reflect Hertfordshire and Stevenage Recovery Coordinating Groups, East of England, National and DCN recovery proposals and
- Gather evidence and best practice to inform the response activities;

The town's recovery will be taken forward through adopting a co-operative partnership approach, through working with other public sector partners, with local business and commerce representatives groups, faith groups, community and voluntary organisations and with academic institutions. Ultimately, the future prosperity and wellbeing of the town in the aftermath of Covid-19 will depend on the Council and its strategic partners continuing to take actions to keep people safe and working towards the Future Town, Future Council vision for the future.

Priorities

The Covid-19 Stevenage Co-operative Recovery Task Force will develop recovery plans for the town working with residents, businesses and critical public service partners. The Taskforce will likely focus on areas such as:

- ***Economic impact, support and recovery*** - including stabilisation, stimulation, and development of a more resilient, inclusive and green economy;

- **Infrastructure projects** – including regeneration and new Council homes
- **Community wealth building** – including support for jobs and skills
- **Climate change** – delivering a low carbon town
- **Safe spaces, safe places** – ensuring safe and good quality neighbourhoods
- **Supporting vulnerable people** - including addressing family poverty and worklessness, rough sleepers and those suffering from domestic abuse;
- **Health and Wellbeing** – including revitalising health and increasing community cohesion and resilience
- **Engagement and communication** – undertaking appropriate engagement with residents, communities and businesses to inform thinking on the recovery response.
- **Relationships** - including with the Local Resilience Forum, Recovery Coordinating Group, Economic Recovery Cell, Community Reassurance Cell, development partners, the Local Enterprise Partnerships, Homes England, Hertfordshire County Council and other district/borough authorities, Herts Growth Board, Community and Voluntary Sector organisations and other strategic partners
- **Evidence base and analysis** - including closely monitoring impacts and the effectiveness of responses, and informing decision making on the above areas.
- **Communications and reassurance** – including the development of a clear communications strategy to share information, guidance and support with residents and businesses.

Governance

The Taskforce will operate on a subsidiarity basis with regard to the partner agencies represented on the taskforce. The multi-agency approach is intended to add value and support, not undermine the sovereignty of the individual agencies. The taskforce will not replace internal governance procedures of each partner and, as such, the group will only have the power to make recommendations. Consequently any impacts on the Council would be subject to normal internal policy development and decision making through the Executive or Council.

It will be important that the partners in the taskforce, collaborate to ensure co-ordination of effort, shared learning and exchange best practice, management of interdependencies and overlaps, and maintain the ability to present a coherent and monitored picture of progress on and barriers to recovery across the whole of the borough.

Further accountability and scrutiny arrangements will be determined as the recovery progresses.

Sponsorship

The Group will be chaired and sponsored by the Leader of the Council

Membership

The COVID-19 Co-operative Recovery Task Force will meet (tbc) to coordinate the recovery of the town. Meetings to take place virtually until such time that meeting in person is possible.

The Group will remain in operation as long as there is a need for a recovery taskforce. Meetings may become less frequent as the recovery progresses.

Recovery Governance Structure

