

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	Local Outbreak Engagement Board		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	COVID-19 Situation Report		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Director of Public Health		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
N/A	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
<p>A COVID-19 report is published by Southampton City Council on a weekly basis. The report summarises some of the key information published by the government, Public Health England and other agencies which can be used to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic both nationally and locally in Southampton.</p>	
<p>Elements of the Covid-19 report along with other key intelligence will be presented to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board, providing an update on the latest situation in Southampton.</p>	
<p>Members of the Board will be invited to provide verbal feedback on the COVID-19 situation in their sectors to support the Local Outbreak Engagement Boards understanding of the COVID-19 risks and impacts in Southampton.</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
(i)	To note the latest situation report and weekly COVID-19 update.
(ii)	To receive verbal feedback from partner members of the Board on the COVID-19 situation in key sectors.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	To ensure that the Local Outbreak Engagement Board is informed about the latest local intelligence relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19).
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	No alternative options considered.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	<p><b><u>Update on the national situation</u></b></p> <p>The government announced its four step roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions in England on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. In the first step, from 8<sup>th</sup> March, all children and students will return to face to face education in schools and colleges, and from 29<sup>th</sup> March outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or 2 households will be allowed. In the second step, no earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April, non-essential retail, outdoor attractions, gyms and outdoor hospitality will be allowed. In the third step, no earlier than 17<sup>th</sup> May, most social contact rules</p>

	will be lifted outdoors - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal, and rule of 6 or up to two households will apply. In the final step, no earlier than 21 <sup>st</sup> June, all legal limits on social contact will be removed.
4.	<p>Each step will be assessed against four tests before deciding if restrictions can be eased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.</li> <li>• Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.</li> <li>• Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.</li> <li>• Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.</li> </ul>
5.	Currently, England is in step one, with children having returned to school on 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021.
7.	<p><b><u>Update on latest data and intelligence</u></b></p> <p>The primary functions of the Southampton Local Outbreak Engagement Board are to ensure political oversight of responses to outbreaks, provide direction and leadership for community engagement, provide assurance on resource use, and be the public face of local responses in the event of an outbreak.</p>
8.	<p>In order to fulfil these tasks, it is important that the Board has access to timely and accurate data and information on the coronavirus outbreak. An online coronavirus dashboard is published daily to help inform members of the public of the current coronavirus situation in Southampton. This dashboard can be found at:</p> <p><a href="https://data.southampton.gov.uk/health/disease-disability/covid-19/covid-19-updates/">https://data.southampton.gov.uk/health/disease-disability/covid-19/covid-19-updates/</a></p>
9.	The report contains information on the number of coronavirus cases, the rate of cases among the resident population, coronavirus related deaths, including where people have died and the number of people reporting coronavirus symptoms through NHS Pathways (for example, 999 calls, 111 calls and 111 online).
10.	Comparisons in the report are made between the last 7 days of complete data and the previous 7 days of data. Weekly variations in data, in the number of cases for example, is to be expected. Therefore, any changes should be interpreted alongside the overall trend, with sustained increases or decreases being more important than daily fluctuations. It is also important to highlight that the data in these reports, especially the most recent figures, are subject to revision. Data presented in these reports are correct at the time of publishing, but may subsequently be revised as more up to date data is made available.
11.	At the time of writing (data up to 11 <sup>th</sup> March) there have been 13,902 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Southampton. There were 206 confirmed cases in the last 7 days, which is an increase of 52 cases compared to the previous 7 days. This equates to 29 new cases per day. Therefore, although infections have fallen considerably and consistently since the peak in January, there are signs that they may now be starting slightly as restrictions are eased.

12.	At the time of writing, Southampton had a weekly infection rate of 81.6 per 100,000 population, which is higher than the South East average of 37.1 per 100,000 population and below the England average of 58.4 per 100,000 population. Rates in Southampton have been falling in line with the South East and England trend, but have increased slightly in the last week as restrictions have been eased. The Southampton weekly infection rate is higher than the rates in Portsmouth (60.0 per 100,000 population), Hampshire (35.4 per 100,000 population) and the Isle of Wight (16.2 per 100,000 population).
13.	Up to 5 <sup>th</sup> March there have been a total of 370 COVID-19 deaths in Southampton. Of those, 241 died in hospital and 129 in the community (102 of which were in care homes). Resident deaths increased once more as a result of the sharp increase in infections during December and January, but have now started to fall to much lower levels. In the last 4 weeks, there have been 27 Covid-19 related deaths, compared to 120 deaths in the previous 4-week period. Although, overall deaths (from all causes) in the city were higher than expected (for the time of year) in January, they are now at levels lower than would be expected for this time of year, based on historic trends over the last five years.
14.	COVID-19 data is received and updated daily, so the local picture can change quickly. Although this paper outlines the latest available information at the time of writing, the picture may have changed by the time of the Outbreak Engagement Board meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> March. Therefore, the latest available information will be presented at the meeting.
15.	It is now over a year since the first COVID-19 recorded infection in Southampton, so now is an appropriate time to reflect on the city's experience of the pandemic over the last 12 months. Work is currently underway to analyse local COVID-19 data over time and compare what has happened in Southampton compared to some of our statistical neighbours including Portsmouth. This work will be presented and reflected on during the Outbreak Engagement Board meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> March.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Capital/Revenue

16. None. This report is for information only.

### Property/Other

17. None. This report is for information only.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

18. N/A. This report is for information only.

### Other Legal Implications:

19. The COVID-19 framework sets out responsibilities for a Local Outbreak Engagement Board to provide public engagement and community leadership.

20. The framework notes "Local DPH teams and PHE will have good situational awareness and are best placed to monitor and identify potential issues in their

	area.” <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers#data">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers#data</a>
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
21.	COVID-19 risks are being managed in line with the council’s risk management framework.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
22.	None.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Weekly COVID-19 updates: <a href="https://data.southampton.gov.uk/health/disease-disability/covid-19/covid-19-updates/">https://data.southampton.gov.uk/health/disease-disability/covid-19/covid-19-updates/</a>

**Documents In Members’ Rooms**

1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	None