# **Policy and Sustainability Committee**

# 10.00am, Thursday, 10 June 2021

## Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

Item Number Executive/Routine	Executive
Wards Council Commitments	All

#### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the Council's latest Covid-19 position following the statement from the First Minister on Tuesday 01 June 2021 and associated Scottish Government guidance.
- 1.2 Note the Covid-19 Response Dashboard outlined at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Note the decisions taken to date under urgency provisions from 13 April to 03 June 2021 outlined at Appendix 2.
- 1.4 Note the working group progress updates from the Adaptation and Renewal Programme, including the support of the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine and testing sites.

#### Andrew Kerr Chief Executive

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# **Policy and Sustainability Committee**

## Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

#### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council continues to respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic and follow all Scottish Government guidelines on the reopening of services. An indicative timeline has been set out for the further easing of restrictions with the country to move to level one on 7 June and to level zero in late June 2021. However, based on current data, on 2 June the First Minister announced Edinburgh along with 12 other Local Authority areas would not yet move to level one and would remain in level 2 for a longer period.
- 2.2 This is the tenth report to Committee and includes the latest Covid-19 dashboard of which the last version was circulated to members on 25 May 2021. The report also details decisions taken in the period 13 April to 03 June 2021 at the Council Incident Management Team (CIMT).

#### 3. Background

#### **Responding to Covid-19**

- 3.1 The Chief Executive continues to chair the bi-weekly CIMT meeting and in conjunction with the Leader and Deputy Leader takes urgent decisions as required. A list of these urgent decisions since the last report is at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The Service Resumption Group (taking over the operational Triage group responsibilities) will respond to and prioritise reopening as per the timeline set out by Scottish Government and any move up or down the tier levels system.

#### Governance

3.3 The Political All-Party Oversight Group (APOG) provides additional scrutiny, oversight and feedback which contributes to the development of reports for the Policy and Sustainability Committee. The APOG last met on the 11 May to consider and discuss the 20-Minute Neighbourhood Strategy. Members agreed with the broad approach and an updated version which takes account of their feedback has been brought to the June meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee for consideration.

3.4 The next meeting of the APOG will be scheduled once future dates for the Policy and Sustainability have been confirmed.

#### 4. Main report

#### **Covid-19 Dashboard**

- 4.1 The Covid-19 dashboard at Appendix 1 reflects the direct and indirect impacts of Covid-19 across the short, medium and longer term. It contains a wide range of information which highlights both how Covid-19 continues to impact Edinburgh as well as more specifically on Council services.
- 4.2 Content for the dashboard continues to be kept under review based on the emerging situation and feedback received. The Covid Key indicators (page 1) has been amended to reflect the Scottish Government's national approach to moving down through the restriction levels and the vaccination data has been extended to show an age group breakdown.
- 4.3 This monthly dashboard is supplemented with a weekly bulletin dashboard that provides the latest position on key data relating to the pandemic. This is circulated to Elected Members every Wednesday.

#### Decisions taken from 12 April to 03 June 2021

4.4 A full list of decisions taken under urgency provisions by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader from 13 April to the 03 June 2021 is at Appendix 2. Matters requiring a decision under urgency powers by the Chief Executive are discussed at CIMT, which continues to meet twice a week or at the weekly the Corporate Leadership Team meeting.

#### **Service Resumption**

- 4.5 The revised Scottish Government Strategic Framework and associated phased / tiered approach for the easing of restrictions requires a coordinated approach to enable efficient implementation of government guidance.
- 4.6 A data gathering exercise has been conducted with Directorates to ensure phased resumption can be planned in advance of the indicative dates for a phased easing of restrictions in line with the Scottish Government route map and the Strategic Framework.
- 4.7 The data gathering exercise has built on information already gathered and focused on facilities management requirements and business continuity arrangements. This included:

- the degree to which activities / services are fully up and running;
- space requirements in Council buildings, including for external partners; and,
- understanding any impacts of service levels on vulnerable people.
- 4.8 The resulting data is currently being analysed and reviewed by the team, including representatives from relevant Divisions, for example Property and Facilities Management, and is overseen by the Service Resumption Group.
- 4.9 To ensure a holistic approach, the Service Resumption Group considers applications for resumption from service managers (formally the operational Triage Group) and also incorporates Future Ways of Working. Regular updates are provided at the CIMT meetings.
- 4.10 Regular briefings will be provided over the coming months and external communications will be in place to updated residents and businesses on plans for service resumption.

#### Adaptation and Renewal Programme

#### Service Operations: Wellbeing Working Group

- 4.11 The Council's Wellbeing Working Group consists of the following workstreams: Culture, Parks and Greenspaces, Sports and the wider Edinburgh Leisure relationship, Community Centres, Libraries and fee-paying Adult Education.
- 4.12 A revised Funding Agreement with Edinburgh Leisure which incorporates key elements of the Council's Business Plan is now in place. This embeds in the agreement the need to realign Edinburgh Leisure's core business due to both financial pressures and changes in customer demand. Whilst ensuring that any changes assist those people in poverty and improve the well-being of the city's residents.

#### Sustainable Economy Recovery Working Group

- 4.13 The Sustainable Economy Recovery Working Group consists of the following workstreams: Economy Strategy, Edinburgh Guarantee, Housing and Regeneration, Culture and Tourism and 20 Minute Neighbourhood strategy.
- 4.14 The 20 Minute Neighbourhood approach has been the focus of the group over this reporting period. There is a separate report to committee on this agenda outlining the 20 Minute Neighbourhood Living Well Locally, with a full strategy document.

#### Change, People and Finance Working Group

- 4.15 The Change, People and Finance Working is now nearing conclusion and has delivered against its original scope, with some activities continuing as business as usual. An end stage report has been prepared for the Working Group providing an assessment of how well it performed and delivered against its original objectives.
- 4.16 Work does continue on the review of operational governance arrangements, considering enhanced arrangements in relation to officer/operational governance.

The aim is to ensure appropriate governance and assurance measures are implemented to streamline decision making and reduce potential risks in relation to assurance and compliance.

#### Life Chances Working Group

- 4.17 The Life Chances Working Group consists of the following workstreams: Immediate Support, Digital Learning and Teaching, Poverty and Prevention and Edinburgh Learns for Life.
- 4.18 The Edinburgh Learns for Life workstream continues to develop plans around the three key themes: Empower, Transform and Connect. Recent progress includes the publication of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Report for Edinburgh which highlighted key strengths around the Council's work to eradicate poverty through the Edinburgh Learns strategy, from which Edinburgh Learns for Life is built.
- 4.19 The Immediate support workstream continues to support people facing financial hardship, with focus on a cash-first approach. Requests for support are being coordinated through the Council's Contact Centre, and activities include administering self-isolation and crisis grants and arranging food deliveries. The ongoing nature of this support will continue to align with national activities.
- 4.20 The Scottish Government has also confirmed that all households eligible for Council Tax Reduction will receive £130 of support and further £100 hardship payments will be made to eligible households at key points in the year. This was confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance on 16 February as part of the announcement on allocation of £1.1billion of additional Barnett Consequentials. These activities will be administered by the Council. Requests for more general support and advice has reduced in recent months and these activities have been mainstreamed as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to support vulnerable citizens in Edinburgh.
- 4.21 To date, throughout the pandemic the Council has also provided more than £250m of grant support for businesses in Edinburgh. This includes £50m of restart grants recently paid to Edinburgh businesses. The Scottish Government is continuing to explore other forms of business support and Council officers are part of the national working group.
- 4.22 The Digital and Learning workstream focuses on the Empowered Learning Programme which has moved into delivery. The five workstreams of the project are intended to achieve the deployment of 1:1 digital devices to support empowered learning solutions both in schools and remotely. Throughout May the project has been carrying out network health checks in all secondary schools, after which they will move onto primary schools. This work will result in a health check report with recommendations for optimising wireless access in schools and addressing any underlying network issues.

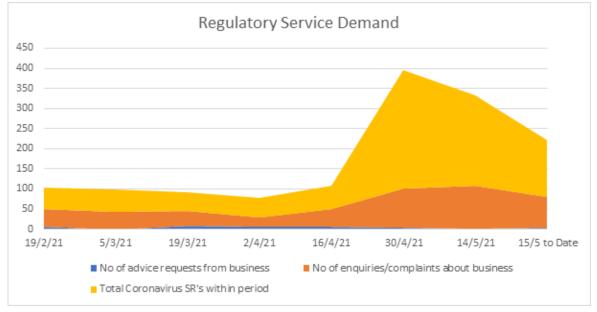
4.23 The Poverty and Prevention workstream focus is engagement as they continue to have open dialogue with colleagues across the council and the Third sector. Consideration is being given to how resource and funding can be identified to move into delivery.

#### Public Health Advisory Working Group

- 4.24 The Service Resumption Group has taken over the role of the Triage group to ensure alignment of service resumption to the prioritisation work which is underway. Public health considerations are considered through this group and the following workstreams, with oversight at the GOLD meeting between Council and NHS.
- 4.25 As has been widely reported, the city experienced a rise in positive Coronavirus cases in the second half of May and into June as reflected in the First Minister's announcement that Edinburgh would remain in level 2.
- 4.26 **Symptomatic Testing -** As agreed with the UK Government, there are currently eight local symptomatic test sites situated across the city, using a mix of Council and ALEO properties. These continue to operate efficiently with over 4,000 tests carried out between the 25 and 31 May.
- 4.27 **Asymptomatic Testing -** In addition, there are two Council-operated asymptomatic test centres (ATCs) are operating (seven days a week) at any one time, targeting areas where higher case numbers are prevalent. These are part of the targeted community testing programme funded by the Scottish Government. These are currently based in Fountainbridge and Moredun libraries, with 30 Council colleagues supporting the operation.
- 4.28 The next deployments targeting areas of concern will be:
  - Blackhall Library from 7 20 June
  - Craigmillar Library from 7 13 June
  - Leith area (site to be confirmed) from 14 20 June
- 4.29 Officers are also working with the NHS and Scottish Ambulance service to deploy Mobile Test Units (MTU) with PCR testing capability, one at Captain's Road between 4 and 10 June operating from 10 am to 6pm. The second at the West Pilton Office between 7 June and 13 June also operating between 10am and 6pm.
- 4.30 An additional supply of 10,000 lateral flow test kits have been ordered to enhance capacity if testing requires to be further scaled up. Working on a pan Lothian basis Chief Executives of the 4 Lothian councils and NHS Lothian have directed further planning take place should it be necessary to enhance community testing locally in response to any variant of concern or a sustained community outbreak.

#### **Regulation of Business**

- 4.31 The easing of Lockdown to Level 2 has brought significant demand for all areas with Regulatory Service in particular requests for public health advice and from licensed businesses in particular hospitality.
- 4.32 Work is being prioritised firstly in responding to any issue that presents a public health risk and thereafter supporting businesses to reopen. The resultant impacts are that other service demands which are non Covid related are not being prioritised at this time.
- 4.33 The table below gives an illustration of demand. Generally, the levels of compliance remain high, but it remains very resource intensive to ensure that this is maintained.



4.34 It is expected that over the summer months supporting the events sector to resume events will place significant demands upon the public safety, environmental health and licensing service.

#### Supporting Hospitality

- 4.35 A number of measures, including waiving charges for outdoor area occupation permits (OAOPs) for tables and chairs until September 2021, have been agreed to help business adapt their operations in line with COVID regulations. Where appropriate, kerbside parking charges have also been suspended to accommodate OAOPs.
- 4.36 These measures have been designed to allow operators to facilitate outside hospitality and increase footfall for other businesses in the city or on local high streets. Businesses should be aware that the measures noted above are temporary

and that areas for which an OAOP has been granted on the carriageway, will not be viable for use in the longer term and will need to be removed at the end of September.

#### 5. Financial impact

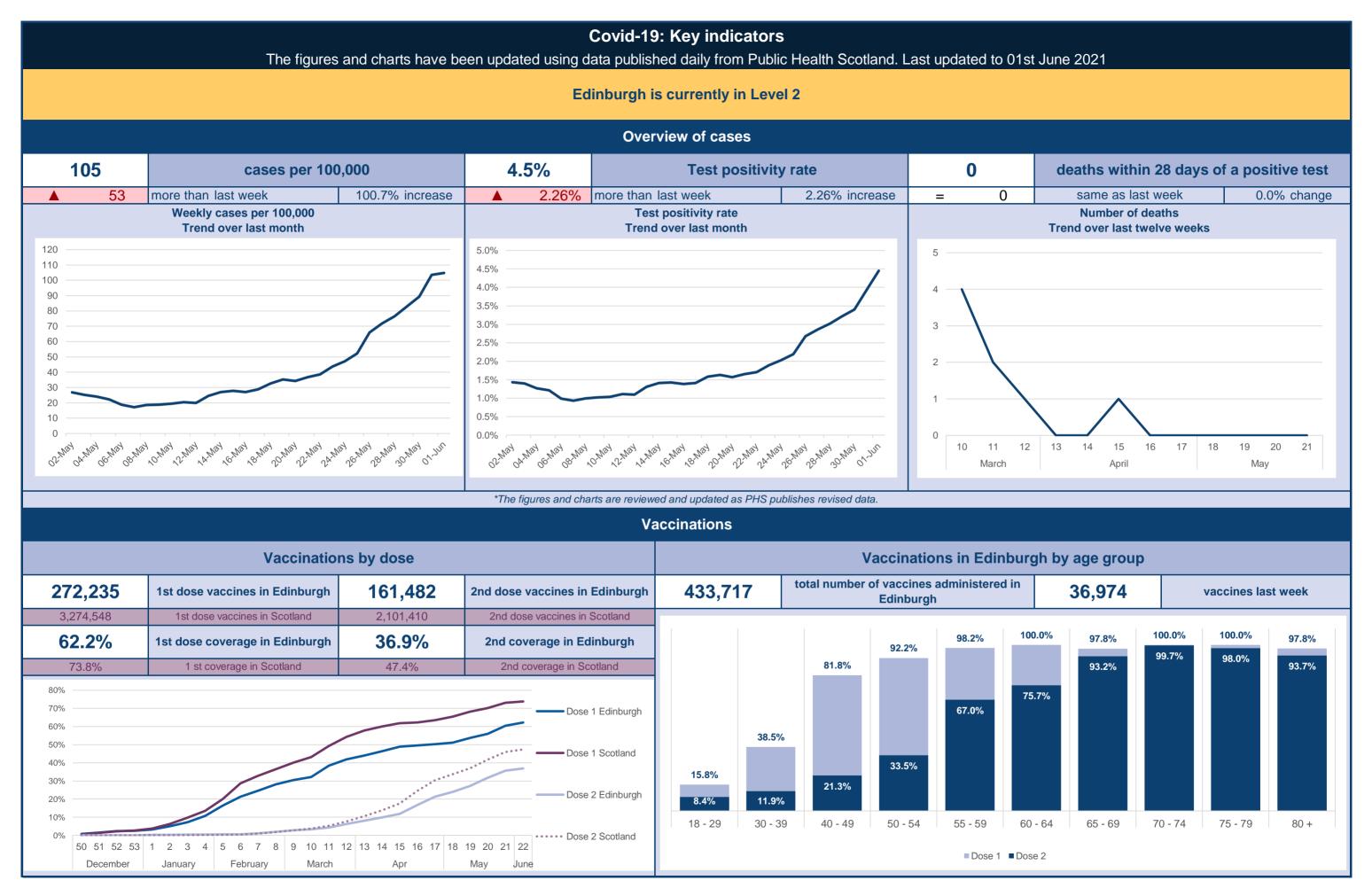
- 5.1 The financial impacts arising from this report are dealt with in Council Business Plan and Revenue Budget 21- 26 which was considered at Finance and Resources Committee and referred to the Budget Full Council on 18 February 2021.
- 5.2 A further budget update was considered at Committee on 20 May and approved at Full Council on 27 May.

#### 6. Background reading/external references

- 6.1 <u>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Protection Levels</u>
- 6.2 Finance and Resources 2 February Council Business Plan and Budget 201/26
- 6.3 Finance and Resources 20 May\_ Revenue Budget Framework 2021/26 Update
- 6.4 <u>City of Edinburgh 27 May\_Motions and Amendments</u>

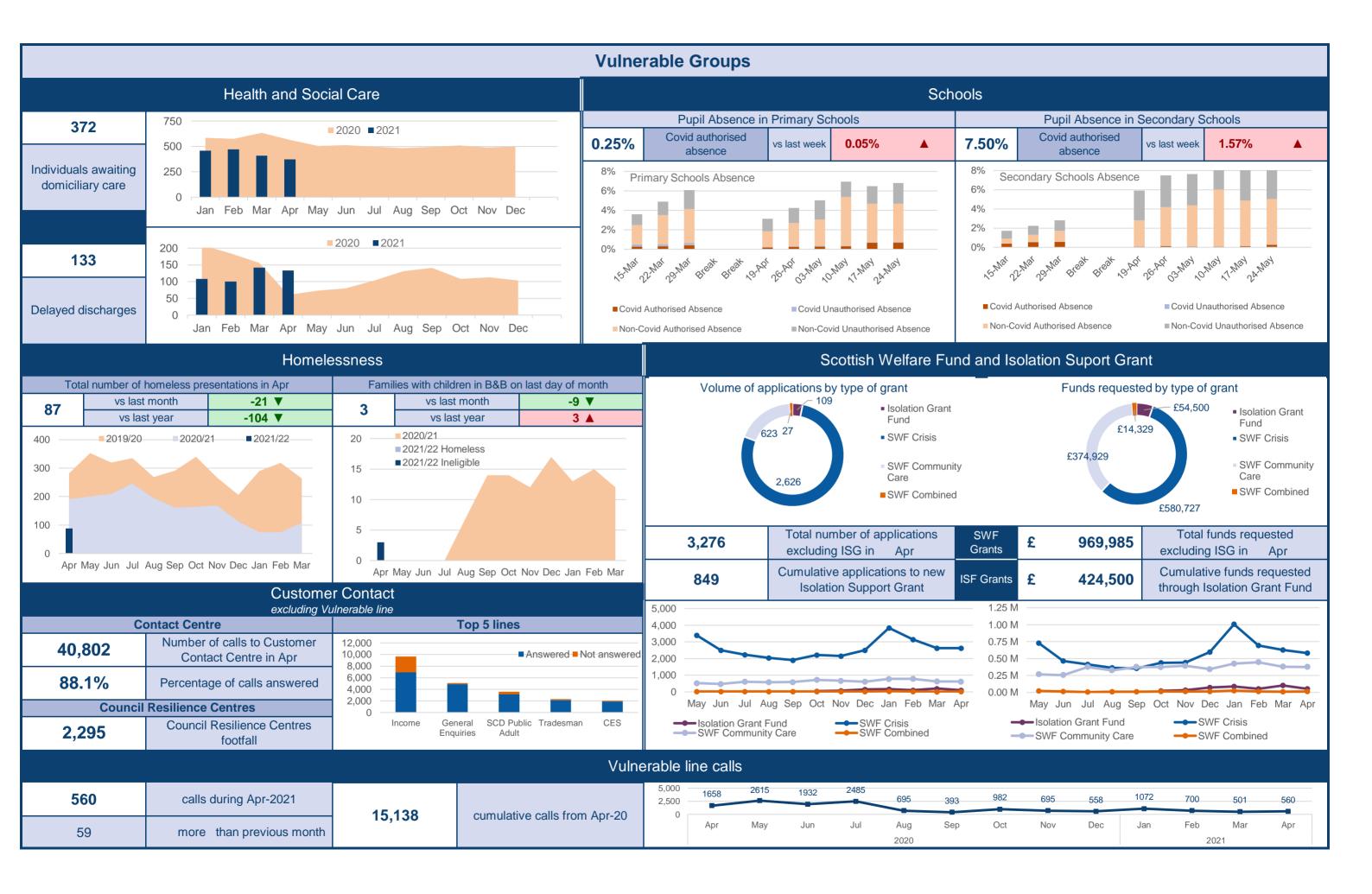
#### 7. Appendices

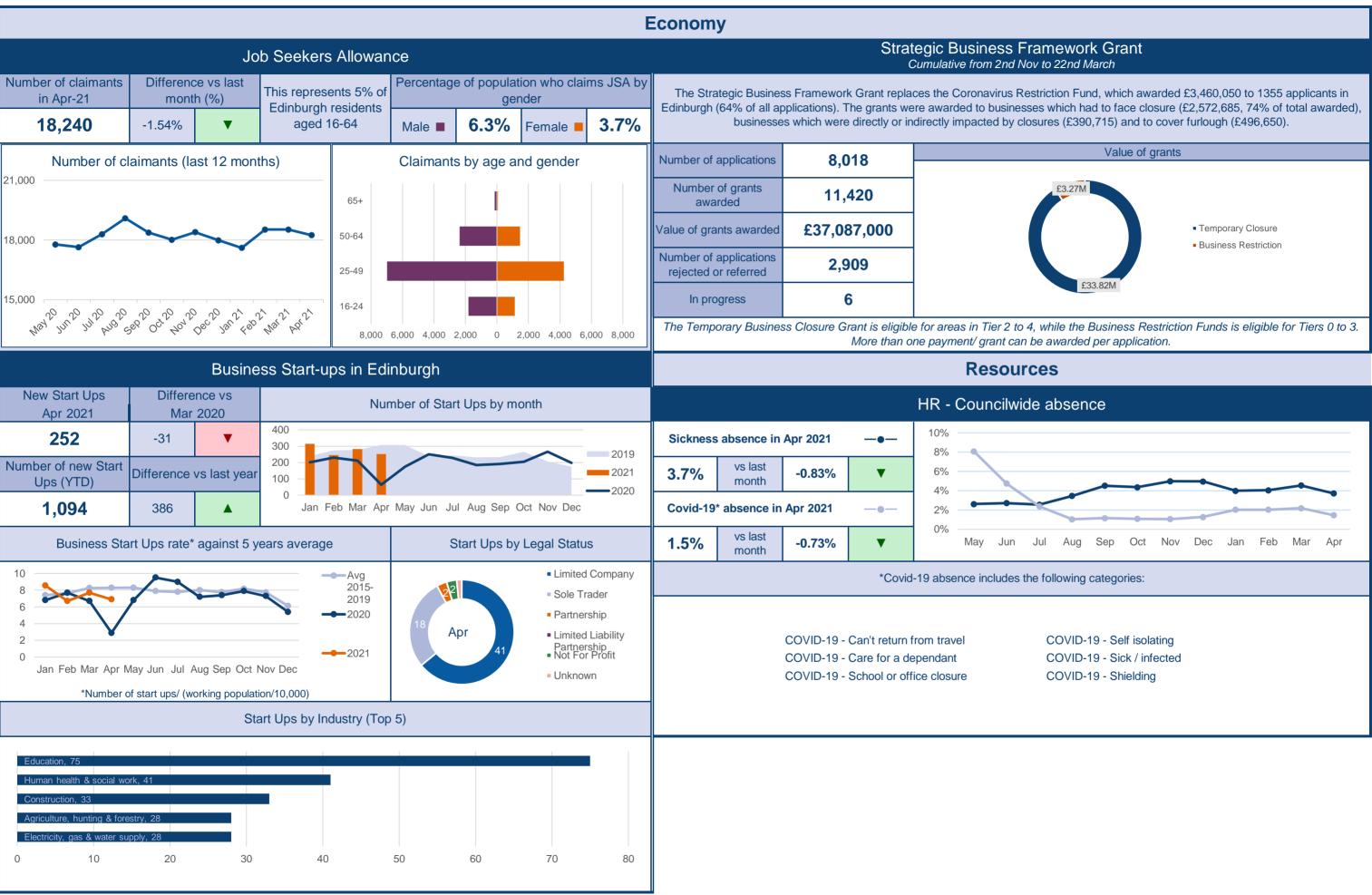
- 7.1 Appendix 1 Covid-19 Response Dashboard
- 7.2 Appendix 2 Decisions taken from 13 April 03 June 2021



#### Last updated on 02/06/2021







### Appendix 2 - Decisions taken from 13 April - 03 June 2021

Ref.	Approved decisions	Date
D638	C137 Extracurricular Activities – To agree to proceed with ECA provision to take place, in accordance with national guidance, outdoors both on and offsite for PS/HS. To note this will be volunteer-led and therefore subject to the availability of parents/staff as coaches. To note pupils and coaches taking part in ECA will have no access to school changing or toilet facilities. To note responsibility for any school ECA activity sits with the HT, is subject to their approval and acceptance of the appropriate guidance issued to them by Senior Management. To note that when the SG moves to level 2, ECA provision will be reviewed and any changes will be subject to the availability of staff.	15/04/2021
D639	Monthly Council Resilience Centre Update – To note the report	15/04/2021
D640	Updated Scottish Government Covid-19 Restrictions Summary - To note the summary and that guidance for levels 3 and 4 were under review	15/04/2021
D641	Haymarket Hub – To approve in principle, subject to agreement from the Council Leaders and HH&FW Conveners, the proposal to secure the Haymarket Hub for temporary accommodation initially until May 2022	15/04/2021
D642	Extension to Leith Library Testing Centres – To agree that the wording would be amended to state that this was a rolling monthly extension and not a 6-month extension	19/04/2021
D643	To agree that any libraries planned to be polling stations will remain closed until after the election, the date they can reopen for normal service will be agreed and circulate	26/04/2021
D644	Hosting the launch of the 2021 Green Space Index by HRH The Duke of Cambridge - To approve that the HRH The Duke of Cambridge, President of Fields in Trust, will launch the 2021 Green Space Index in an Edinburgh park on 27 May 2021 as detailed in the report	26/04/2021
D645	Use of Agency Staff for Asymptomatic Test Centres - To approve the use of agency staff for Asymptomatic Testing Centres	26/04/2021
D646	Provider Sustainability Payments - To approve the fifth tranche of payments totalling £2,350,861 for Health and Social care providers as detailed in the report	26/04/2021
D647	C132 Multi-Function Devices Audit – To approve the resumption of the virtual and physical audits of devices as detailed in the report	03/05/2021
D648	C135 Open All Hours Youth Work – To approve the resumption of Open All Hours youth work provision as detailed in the report	03/05/2021
D649	C139 Council Wide First Aid Training - To approve the resumption of first aid training as detailed in the report	03/05/2021
D650	C140 City Archives Public Access – To approve access to the collections of Edinburgh City Archives via the search room of Historic Environment Scotland, as detailed in the report	03/05/2021

D651	Bus Priority Rapid Development Fund – Hermiston Park and Ride, Newcraighall Road, Duddingston Park South and Kaimes Crossroads measures – To note the comments received as part of the notification process for the Hermiston P&R, Newcraighall Road, Duddingston Park South and Kaimes Crossroads proposed interventions. To commence the delivery of required TTRO and the subsequent implementation of BPRDF interventions associated with the schemes at Hermiston P&R, Newcraighall Road, Duddingston Park South and Kaimes Crossroads subject to sign-off from the Council Leaders	06/05/2021
D652	Housing Services and the easing of Covid-19 Restrictions – To approve the note for circulation to elected members	06/05/2021
D653	Update and Request for Approval: Asymptomatic Testing Centres – To note the progress made in the early stages of the ATC launch. To approve use of Gilmerton Library to host an ATC between Monday 10 May and Sunday 16 May 2021	06/05/2021
D654	Resumption of Citizenship Ceremonies in the Main Council Chamber City Chambers Edinburgh - To approve the resumption of citizenship ceremonies in the Main Council Chamber as detailed in the report	10/05/2021
D655	Resumption of Citizenship Ceremonies in the Main Council Chamber City Chambers Edinburgh - To approve the resumption of citizenship ceremonies in the Main Council Chamber as detailed in the report	10/05/2021
D656	Extension of Manual Handling Training - To approve the delivery of a half day manual handling awareness course and a full day practical manual handling skills training to a group of 10 newly recruited Monitoring and Response Officers as detailed in the report	10/05/2021
D657	C143 - WHEC Reopening - Leisure Pool - To approve the reopening of WHEC leisure pool for community & school use	10/05/2021
D658	Resumption of Lagganlia/Benmore - To approve the commencement of Step 2a of the Residential Centres Adaptation and Renewal Programme at the Council's Benmore and Lagganlia outdoor centres as detailed in the report	10/05/2021
D659	Edinburgh Community Rehabilitation and Support Services – including smart home - To approve access to smart home in Longstone Centre for specialist technology for 1:1 assessment and support through appointments as detailed in the report	10/05/2021
D660	C134 – EHSCP – Be Able – Capelaw, Granton and Drumbrae Day Service Buildings To approve having up to 4 staff based in each building throughout the day and for other staff to come in to collect PPE, take welfare breaks, support lone working, use IT systems for case recording (not accessible otherwise), but not remaining in the office for longer than necessary. Staff would not be using all the rooms within the buildings, confining themselves to agreed spaces as directed. (office space, toilet, kitchen area and storage space). They will maintain appropriate social distancing and follow the guidance outlined within building access risk assessments	13/05/2021
D661	C144 Outdoor Bookbug Sessions May 2021 - To approve the provision of outdoor Bookbug sessions for parents and children, in line with current SG guidance, as detailed in the report	17/05/2021

D662	C145 Willow Service to re-occupy office premises located within Lauriston Building - To approve the proposal for the Willow Service to re-occupy office premises located within Lauriston Building enabling staff to undertake virtual interventions and provide a safe location for community outreach support work, as detailed in the report	17/05/2021
D663	C146 Criminal Justice Social Work Services – additional desk space at Leith CRC and additional desk space at ENO To approve the extension of desk and interview space at the North East Council Resilience Centre from two to four and to allocate two desks and interview space at New Kirkgate CRC. This would meet increased workload demands as Covid restrictions relax and meet the needs of those who must be seen in an office when the service cannot be provided whilst working from home	17/05/2021
D664	C147 Place: Planning & Building Standards - Plan Store (Administered by Customer & Digital Services) - To approve the reopening of the Plan Store to undertake the transactional service of providing copy plans/building warrants and completion certificates to customers, arranged by appointment, with social distancing measures in place, as detailed in the report	17/05/2021
D665	Update and Request for Approval: Asymptomatic Testing Centres To note the progress of community testing in Asymptomatic Testing Centres (ATC) in Edinburgh. To approve the return of the ATC to Craigmillar Library between Monday 24 May and Sunday 30 May 2021 - AM To approve the use of Fountainbridge and Moredun Libraries as the next ATC host locations to commence w/b 31 May 2021	17/05/2021
D666	Access to Cultural Venues - To approve access to the Cultural Venues to enable limited business activity to meet the demands from users as the city moves in to Level 2 and beyond	20/05/2021
D667	C26(b) - Waste and Cleansing Reopening of Public Conveniences To approve the provision of additional toilets/re-opening of toilets in key locations, as detailed in the report, subject to final confirmation.	24/05/2021
D668	C136 - Juniper Green Community Centre To approve access to the Committee Room for the Community for Food organisers/volunteers as detailed in the report	24/05/2021
D669	Update and Request for Approval: Asymptomatic Testing Centres To note the progress made on the ATC programme. To approve the use of Blackhall and Craigmillar libraries between Monday 7 and Sunday 13 June, subject to agreement by the Council Leaders	27/05/2021
D670	Opening of Bruntsfield Links Short-Hole Golf Course To approve the opening of the course indicating each hole with a white painted number and direction marker. This arrangement will be monitored over the coming weeks and any issues or concerns addressed	27/05/2021

D671	Update on ATCs To note the progress made on the ATC programme. To approve the extended use of Blackhall and separately first deployment to a location to TBC in Leith between Monday 14 and Sunday 20 June, with the contingency of using Moredun as an alternative if an MTU is not available	03/06/2021
D672	Service Resumption Proposal - Lord Provost's Office and Civic Programme To agree to re-start specific, established Civic Events within the City Chambers from 7 June 2021 subject to CIMT agreement for each proposal. These will include Annual Award Ceremonies, one off Civic Receptions for notable achievements and Lord Lieutenancy duties on behalf of The Queen. In addition, certain undertakings are the result of approved Motions to Full Council. These will be managed according to SG guidance on numbers/social distancing and will not represent a return to offices	03/06/2021
D673	Recommencement of Events in Parks 2021 To approve the recommencement of processing event applications, including stakeholder consultation, up to the point of 'permission in principle'. To agree all proposals will come to CIMT for a final decision	03/06/2021
D674	Edinburgh Napier University Contract of Let, Church Hill Theatre To approve officers to proceed with a contract of let for Edinburgh Napier University's rental of the Church Hill Theatre from July to December 2021	03/06/2021
D675	Volleyball at Liberton To agree the Beach Volleyball Small Countries Association (SCA) - European Zonal Event (no-spectators) competition can take place with all mitigations in place	03/06/2021