

Report To:	COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY SCRUTINY PANEL	Date:	5 NOVEMBER 2020
Heading:	GUIDANCE AND RESTRICTIONS UPDATE		
Portfolio Holder:	NOT APPLICABLE		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel with an update regarding recent changes in guidance and legislation relating to COVID-19. This includes the move from tier 2 to tier 3 lockdown restrictions across all of Nottinghamshire.

Recommendation(s)

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel Members are recommended to:

- a. Note the information contained in the report relating to COVID-19 guidance and restrictions.
- b. Consider how the introduction of tier three lockdown restrictions will affect the Council's COVID-19 response and recovery plans.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

As part of the established terms of reference for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel, regular updates are provided to the Panel concerning up to date Government guidance and restrictions.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered.

Detailed Information

Since the previous meeting of the Panel held on 6 October 2020, existing guidance and legislation has been altered, with new restrictions put in place across Nottinghamshire.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

General guidance in all areas of England continues to be to remember 'Hands. Face. Space':

- Hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- Face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- Space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

You should continue to:

- Follow social distancing rules
- Work from home where you can effectively do so
- Travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

It was announced on Wednesday 28 October that **all of Nottinghamshire** would move into the top tier of COVID-19 restrictions on Friday 30 October. Originally, it was only intended for Nottingham City, Broxtowe, Rushcliffe and Gedling council areas to move into tier 3 restrictions. However, following delays to the release of information regarding the restrictions, it was announced that the move would also include Ashfield, Mansfield, Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood.

Nottinghamshire will join Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester, Lancaster, South Yorkshire, and Warrington in the highest tier of local restrictions.

As set out on the Government's COVID-19 support website, tier 3 restrictions mean at a minimum:

- You must not socialise with anybody you do not live with or have formed a support bubble with, in any indoor setting or in any private garden or at most outdoor hospitality venues and ticketed events
- You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach, the countryside, a public garden or a sports venue
- Pubs and bars must close; they can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant, which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal, and they may only serve alcohol as part of such meal
- Schools, colleges, and universities remain open

- Places of worship remain open, but household mixing is not permitted
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees, however, wedding receptions are not allowed
- Exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors, these will only be permitted indoors if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with or share a support bubble with; there are exceptions for supervised activities for under 18s, and disability support
- You should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
- You should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in very high alert level area if you are a resident elsewhere

These are the baseline restrictions in tier 3 level areas. The Government may also seek to agree additional interventions in consultation with local authorities, in order to reduce the spread of the virus. These could include the following options:

- Restrictions preventing the sale of alcohol in hospitality or closing all hospitality (except takeaway and delivery)
- Closing indoor and outdoor entertainment venues and tourist attractions
- Closing venues such as leisure centres and gyms (while ensuring provision remains available for elite athletes, youth and disabled sport and physical activity)
- Closing public buildings, such as libraries and community centres (while ensuring provision remains available for youth and childcare activities and support groups)
- Closing personal care and close contact services or prohibiting the highest-risk activities
- Closing performing arts venues for the purposes of performing to audiences

Panel Members will be kept up to date with any additional interventions introduced to Ashfield.

A package of financial support measures for affected businesses and workers agreed with the Government, will be put in place, in line with other areas where tier 3 measures have been imposed.

It is anticipated that further information regarding restrictions and financial support will be released in the coming days and weeks.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Panel will be reviewing the Council's response and recovery plans in line with the refreshed Corporate Plan.

Legal:

Any legal implications relating to COVID-19 restrictions and guidance are being fully considered by the Council.

Finance:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. Any implications arising as a result of Nottinghamshire moving to tier three restrictions will be considered as part of the Panel's future work, in accordance with the approved work programme.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The Council's Corporate Risk Register has been reviewed to take account of impacts and increased risks as a result of COVID-19.	Monitoring and updating the COVID-19 related risks through the Council's existing Corporate Risk Management processes and through the work of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Scrutiny Panel.

Human Resources:

There are no direct HR implications resulting from this report. Any HR implications identified will be considered appropriately.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no direct environment or sustainability implications resulting from this report. Any environment or sustainability implications identified will be considered appropriately.

Equalities:

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from this report. Any equalities implications identified will be considered appropriately.

Other Implications:

None.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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