





**Welcome to the Community Resilience
Virtual Briefing
5 March 2021**

Topics to cover

- Virtual briefing to complement the weekly email briefing
- Covid update
- Vaccination timeline update
- Council Budget Set – Ambitious Highland
 - Investment Strategy for Health and Prosperity
 - Recovery, Improvement and Transformation Fund
 - Savings Proposals
- Key contacts and ideas for future briefings please

Covid update

- Covid positive tests are declining
- Infection rate has reduced again from 53.9/100,000 reported last week to 28.0/100,000 this week, so positive improvement
- Test positivity 1.7%
- Still need to stick to:
 - 
FACE COVERINGS
 - 
AVOID CROWDS
 - 
CLEAN HANDS
 - 
TWO METRES
 - 
SELF-ISOLATE
- Majority of cases remain around the inner moray firth area

Vaccination Update NHS Highland

Cohort	JCVI Priority	1st dose due by	Total population
Over 80s	2	5th Feb	18,427
75-79	3	15th Feb	14,703
70-74	4	15th Feb	21,253
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable	4	15th Feb	6,396
65-69	5	15th Feb	20,198
Under 65 at risk	6	30 th April	44,832
60-64	7	30th April	13,681
55-59	8	30th April	15,284
50-54	9	30th April	16,061
Carers		30th April	TBC
18-49		31 July	96,662

Jabbernaut

- Purpose design & built mobile vaccination unit by Council transport and building maintenance staff
- To help deliver vaccinations across Highland



Ambitious Highland – Health and Prosperity Strategy 2021-22

- Impact of covid and the move to recovery is at the heart of this year's budget
- Aim is to address the 4 harms of covid – direct health harms, indirect health harms, societal harms and economic harms

Three key strands

- Strand 1 – An Investment Strategy for Health and Prosperity
- Strand 2 – Recovery Improvement and Transformation Fund
- Strand 3 – Savings proposals to deliver a balanced budget

Drivers for Change

- Covid Recovery
- Community focused/place based approach
- Highland economy
- Climate Change

Investment Strategy for Health & Prosperity

Key areas of investment:

Visitor Management Strategy - £1.5m

- Investment in roads, parking management, comfort schemes (to enhance toilet provision), enhanced litter and waste collection, provision for motorhomes

Economic Prosperity Fund - £6m

- Focus on employment opportunities particularly for young people – Modern Apprenticeships, mentoring skills, increasing training and learning opportunities, supporting business to create jobs for people out of work

Place Based Investment - £2.1m

- £100,000 per ward to develop local responses to covid e.g. welfare supports around food and fuel support, wellbeing investments in play parks/leisure facilities, supports around addressing mental wellbeing and loneliness

Recovery, Improvement and Transformation

- 9 Projects aimed to support the delivery of the Council's Corporate aims and the Council's financial strategy to deliver savings by working more efficiently and effectively
- To be delivered over a 12-24 month period, projects include:
 - **Waste** – to reduce our waste by supporting alternatives to landfill
 - **Social Care** – in partnership with NHS Highland, transforming how social care services are delivered given the aging population and increase in population need with a focus on reducing residential care and supporting independent living
 - **Digital transformation** – improving how customers can connect with the Council
 - **Climate Change** – including a dedicated Food Growing Community Engagement Officer to support the identification of land for food growing/allotments to increase community involvement in food growing opportunities

Budget Savings for a Balance Budget

- Making the Council More Efficient
 - Efficiencies as a result of the move to online working and reductions in travel
- Commercialisation and Income Generation
 - Cost recovery from service provision and statutory fees e.g. new licensing provision, registrar service
 - Savings from implementation of Glass Return Scheme
 - Providing Highland Virtual Academy Services to other Local Authorities
 - Increasing fares on ferry services for motorhomes
- Redesign and Improvement
 - Staff savings as a result of redesign of services to improve service delivery

Key Messages

- Council tax has been frozen for the 2021/22 financial year
- Kept reserves at £24.7m which provides financial sustainability and ability to manage any risks
- Recognition of the real challenges facing communities as a result of covid - the budget enables investment in key areas in order sustain communities through this period
- Core aim to stimulate growth and recovery and thereby improve health and prosperity

Thank you and stay safe

- For local resilience support – please contact your Ward Manager or policy6@highland.gov.uk
- For welfare advice and referring people - Welfare.support@highland.gov.uk
- For the vaccination programme NHSHighland.Feedback@nhs.scot

Please respond to policy6@highland.gov.uk if there are any items you'd like to see included in future briefings.

We plan to review the virtual briefing in mid May (after 3 months), and are keen to hear your views on how helpful this information is and what would make it better.