

COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service – delegation of function to Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health
July 2020
Deadline date: 9 July 2020

Cabinet portfolio holder:	Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health
Responsible Director:	Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan: No (Urgency and Special Urgency procedures invoked)
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	NO (Waiver of Call-in procedure invoked)
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

The Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the following.

1. Authorise the urgent delegation of authority to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to act as lead local authority in commissioning the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and for delivery of the function of the service, which shall include the associated transfer of funding to CCC from 10 July 2020 until 31 October 2020. CCC shall enter into contract with the supplier for the delivery of this service.

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the Constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (f).

1.2 With the approval of the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee, urgency, special urgency procedure, and waiver of call-in procedure have been invoked to suspend the requirement to publish the decision on the forward plan for 28 days, to publish the decision for five days, and to subject the decision to a three day call-in period. These procedures have been invoked in order to meet critical timescales for the urgent procurement of these services and to ensure that delegated authority for CCC to act as lead authority in the commissioning of the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire is obtained. The local testing service shall provide a swift response that is accessible to the local population. There is synergy in the Council's working together given that the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service shall be provided within the boundaries of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority areas and there are clear efficiencies in having one service provision across the two Local authority areas. The service will need to be able to swab in any community setting or workplace as national and local guidance on COVID-19 changes with time and where potential outbreaks could occur.

2. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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3. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

3.1 The Government launched the NHS Test and Trace Service on 28th May 2020. This national service is designed to control the virus and enable people to live a safer and more normal life. The overarching guiding principles being Test; Trace; Contain; Enable.

3.2 The NHS Test and Trace Service will work as a proposed 3 tier system; Tier 1 is of relevance for the local testing system. Tier 1 will be a regionalised network, including sub-regional and localised delivery providing contact tracing, consequence management and support in relation to complex settings, cohorts and individuals / households.

3.3 Local planning and response will be the key to allowing the national service to work effectively at large scale. Local outbreak control plans centring on 7 key themes will be developed; and key theme 3 is identified as 'local testing capacity'.

3.4 The local testing service will need to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the local population (defining how to prioritise and manage deployment). A key consideration will be the ability of the local testing system to be able to respond swiftly once a complex cluster or setting has been identified through the national NHS Test and Trace initiative or through any other national or local stakeholders; e.g. East of England PHE Centre

3.5 Aims and Objectives

The objective is to ensure that swift and effective local provision of community swabbing is always available to support the multiagency SARS-CoV-2 outbreak response in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

3.6 The aim will be to build on existing commissioned services (eg: School Nursing, District Nursing) in the creation of the systems and extra capacity required to achieve the objective above.

3.7 This is an urgent requirement and it is intended that the new contract for this service shall commence on 10 July 2020.

3.8 CCC shall contract with the successful supplier for the provision of a COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service. This contract shall be from 10 July 2020 for an anticipated 3 month period. Beyond this initial 3 month period, there is further consideration to how this service may be delivered, and any future period of funding and delegation shall be obtained via additional governance.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation for this short term provision has been undertaken between Public Health, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

5.1 This service will undertake swabbing, arrange for couriering and testing of swabs and communication of both positive and negative results as per agreed protocol in any community setting in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where national testing routes or local services' internal capacity is insufficient to undertake the required swabbing.

5.2 Community settings may include schools, early years' settings, workplaces, homeless accommodation and households; this list is not exclusive. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic possible cases and contacts may need to be swabbed, depending on the situation. This service will swab both adults and children.

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

6.1 To ensure that the local testing service provides a swift response that is accessible to the local population (defining how to prioritise and manage deployment) and the ability of the local testing system to be able to respond swiftly once a complex cluster or setting has been identified through the national NHS Test and Trace initiative or through any other national or local stakeholders; e.g. East of England PHE Centre.

6.2 Delegating authority to CCC to act as lead local authority in commissioning the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and for delivery of the function of the service is recommended on the basis of strategic and geographical practicalities and therefore a joint procurement will be both financially and operationally beneficial.

6.3 There is synergy in working together given that the service will generally be within the boundaries of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authority areas. The service will need to be able to swab in any community setting or workplace (e.g. schools, early years, factories, homeless accommodation) as national and local guidance on COVID-19 changes with time and where potential outbreaks could occur (including arranging swabbing at an individual's home).

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 For CCC and PCC to commission this service separately, however given that the service will generally be provided within the boundaries of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Local Authority areas there are clear efficiencies in having one service across the two Local authority areas.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial Implications

The current budget allocated from the Outbreak Control Grant is for a maximum of £60,000.00 across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for this service for the initial 3 month period.

The longer term commissioning option, if required to delegate to CCC, shall be obtained via a further decision notice.

8.2 Legal Implications

8.2.1 Legal implications shall be considered and addressed within the Delegation and Partnering Agreement underpinning the transfer of commissioning authority to Cambridgeshire. The council shall delegate its commissioning responsibility and delivery of the function for the COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service to CCC and shall transfer funding to CCC accordingly. CCC shall therefore act as lead commissioner and enter into contractual arrangements on the council's behalf.

8.2.2 The Parties shall enter into a Delegation and Partnering Agreement in reliance on their powers and the exclusive rights given to local authorities to undertake administrative arrangements of this nature in sections 101 and 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, and sections 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the regulations made under these Acts; together with the general power within section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the supporting provisions within section 111 Local Government Act 1972.

8.2.3 The Delegation and Partnering Agreement shall set out clear roles and responsibilities for both councils, including (but not limited to) liabilities, financial arrangements, information governance, data protection and performance management.

8.4 Equalities Implications

8.4.1 The local testing system will be a regionalised network, including sub-regional and localised delivery providing contact tracing, consequence management and support in relation to complex settings, cohorts and individuals / households.

8.5 Carbon Impact Assessment

8.5.1 To be completed in liaison with Charlotte Palmer.

9. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

9.1 None.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.