

**COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service – continued delegation of function to Cambridgeshire County Council**

**Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health**

**October 2020**

**Deadline date: 16 October 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: Yes KEY/12OCT20/02
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
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 continued 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 1 November 2020 until 17 July 2021. 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).

## 2. **TIMESCALES**

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

- 3.1 The Government launched the NHS Test and Trace Service on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 are Test; Trace; Contain; Enable.
- 3.2 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'.
- 3.3 The local testing service will need to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the local population. A key consideration will be the ability of the local outbreak 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
- 3.4 Aims and Objectives
- 3.5 The objective is to ensure that swift and effective local provision of community swabbing in the event of an outbreak is always available to support the multiagency SARS-CoV-2 outbreak response in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 3.6 The initial delegation was authorised within CMDN JUL20/CMDN/10 for the initial period up until 31 October 2020, whereby CCC undertook an urgent and short term procurement in order to contract with the successful supplier for the provision of a COVID-19 Urgent and Surge Community Swabbing Service.
- 3.7 The original CMDN acknowledged that beyond this initial 3 month period, there would be further consideration to how this service may be delivered, and any future period of funding and delegation shall be obtained via additional governance. CCC are now undertaken a longer term procurement for this service to be delivered jointly on behalf of PCC and CCC. Subsequently, PCC shall continue to delegate this function to CCC.
- 3.8 The local testing service shall continue to 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.

3.9

The service will be procured through a light-touch competitive tender.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 Consultation 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 there is a need for outbreak or cluster testing.

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 The continued delegating of 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**

A maximum of £31,950 will be transferred from Peterborough to Cambridgeshire Local Authority over a period of 9 months.

## **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 service will enable testing to be accessible to all individuals in the community.

## **8.5 Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 8.5.1 To be completed in liaison with Charlotte Palmer. – Completed and attached.

Overall Summary States:

Potential negative impact but this is unavoidable. Efforts will be made to ensure any carbon impacts, such as staff travel, are kept to a minimum.

## **9. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED**

- 9.1 None.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 None.