

Covid-19 Policy Coordination

Exempted from publication under Section 35 (Formulation of Government Policy) and Section 36 (Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Decision required

Cabinet members are asked to agree to the ongoing use of the dashboard to coordinate the Welsh Government response, identify any areas of work not in the policy co-ordination dashboard, and any areas where further Welsh Government action is required.

Summary

1. The Covid-19 Project team has been seeking to develop a cross-Welsh Government view of all the activity underway in Welsh Government in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The intention is to support Ministerial oversight, highlight areas of most significant risk and support a co-ordinated approach across Welsh Government. Ministers are asked to provide a view on whether the content reflects all the critical issues and whether further action is needed in a particular area.

Objective of the paper

2. The paper introduces Cabinet members to the C-19 delivery workstream dashboard. The dashboard seeks to collate high-level strands of activity underway across the organisation, in a simple visual form, to support Ministers through immediate issues and into recovery. This should provide a clear overall picture of all the work being taken forward, and who leads each strand. That should allow testing and assurance that all the necessary things are in hand.
3. The delivery workstreams have been identified at a thematic-level, and there are a significant amount of activities underneath each of the workstreams to deliver outcomes for Wales, which are not captured in the dashboard. Many of these themes require contributions from teams across Welsh Government to deliver, but need to be brought together to secure the overall objective.
4. This list is a dynamic one – some areas of work will be completed and new issues will come to the fore and be added to the dashboard as time passes. The intention is that we will update this dashboard weekly, adding and archiving issues as necessary. We suggest that it is used as an overview report to cabinet each week (for information) with a brief covering note to draw out the main issues for discussion.

5. Many of the workstreams and supporting deliverables will be dependent on funding-decisions, and the workstreams will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are consistent with the decisions of the Star Chamber on the allocation of the central reserve and other spending decisions. It is hoped that the document will also provide Ministers and members of the Star Chamber with an early warning system for issues that may require future funding decisions.
6. There are separate pieces of work beginning to consider the impacts of the Coronavirus on existing policy priorities, and also considering what elements of the 2021 budget will need to be revisited in the light of the Coronavirus response. As these pieces of work develop, we will ensure they feed into process and that the implications are reflected in the workstreams as necessary.
7. This dashboard sits alongside a new Data Monitor, which will be kept up to date with critical timely information from across Wales: such as the number of cases, key statistics from health boards across Wales in terms of capacity, economic indicators, social distancing data (including daily transport data) and a range of data measuring the impact of our interventions (such as children attending schools, calls to helplines, delivery of food parcels etc). A finance dashboard is also in development. These data sets will complement each other in providing the overall picture in Wales.

Impact

8. Corraling the deliverables in this way should support the overall Welsh Government response to the Coronavirus, allowing Ministers to rapidly identify critical issues, areas of risk and to prioritise funding decisions. It will help identify connections between policy responses, any gaps in the response and provide ongoing assurance that the interventions are the right ones for the people of Wales. At operational level it has already helped us join up work across different parts of Welsh Government, reduce overlaps and identify gaps.

Communications and publication

9. This dashboard is being used to support a cross-Welsh Government approach to our Covid-19 response. It is discussed three times a week by officials in the context of the cross-Welsh Government Covid-19 Preparedness Group, to ensure all emerging issues and areas which require collaboration are identified and acted upon. It is also reviewed on a weekly basis by ExCovid. It is an internal document, and will not be shared outside Welsh Government.

CABINET

CAB(19-20)46

Recommendation:

Cabinet members are asked to agree to the ongoing use of the dashboard to coordinate the Welsh Government response, identify any areas of work not in the policy co-ordination dashboard, and any areas where further Welsh Government action is required.

**Mark Drakeford
First Minister
April 2020**

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Approved by: Tim Render

CABINET PAPER (title of paper) Annex A**Statutory, Finance, Legal and Governance matters**

This annex should contain an analysis of the Financial, Legal and Governance implications.

Statutory Requirements

1. The issues highlighted and the broad approach reflected in the paper are considered to be in keeping with the Government of Wales Acts (1998 and 2006), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Language Standards, Equality and Human Rights legislation and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. In particular, the focus on supporting the most vulnerable communities, and aligning Welsh Government activity accordingly, is based on and supportive of our Well-being goals and the five ways of working in the 2015 Act.

Finance Requirements and Governance Implications

3. This paper does not seek ministerial approval for specific actions or new expenditure. Any recommendations arising from discussion of this paper will be subject to further advice which will be submitted to Ministers in due course, supported by appropriate impact assessments. Therefore officials consider there are no immediate statutory requirements arising from this paper.

Research and / or Statistics

4. There are no research or statistical issues in this paper.

Joined up Working

5. The dashboard is a product of a contributions from across Welsh Government.