

AGENDA ITEM 1

Covid-19 Report by the Minister of Health

2. The Minister of Health provided an update on the vaccination programme, and advised that given the comparatively high uptake here, there were no plans to require care home staff to receive vaccinations. He noted that community testing would take place this weekend in two post-code areas showing high levels of the Delta variant.
3. The Chief Scientific Adviser gave a presentation on, and the Executive discussed, statistical data relating to the pandemic, including: the recent rise in positive cases and test positivity; the age profile of positive cases, which demonstrated a significant rise in cases amongst those in the 18-30 age range but lower rates of infection in largely vaccinated age groups; the increase in incidence rates in a number of local government areas; and comparisons with infection levels in England, Scotland and Wales. The CSA noted that hospitalisation rates remained low, but advised it may take two to three weeks to assess the impact of the increase in infection rates. He provided an overview of revised modelling that takes account of the Delta variant and planned relaxations, noting three scenarios (optimistic, central, pessimistic).

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID Management

E (21) 138 (C) Ratification of Decision for Further Easements from 21 June 2021

4. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
5. Following discussion, the Executive agreed an indicative date of 5 July for the proposed relaxations as detailed in Annex A of Executive Memorandum E (21) 138 (C), with a prior review date of 1 July.