

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

## COVID UPDATE

### 23 JULY 2020

# Agenda

- Prevalence
- Finance
- Powers
- Return of Council staff
- Decisions made last 4 weeks

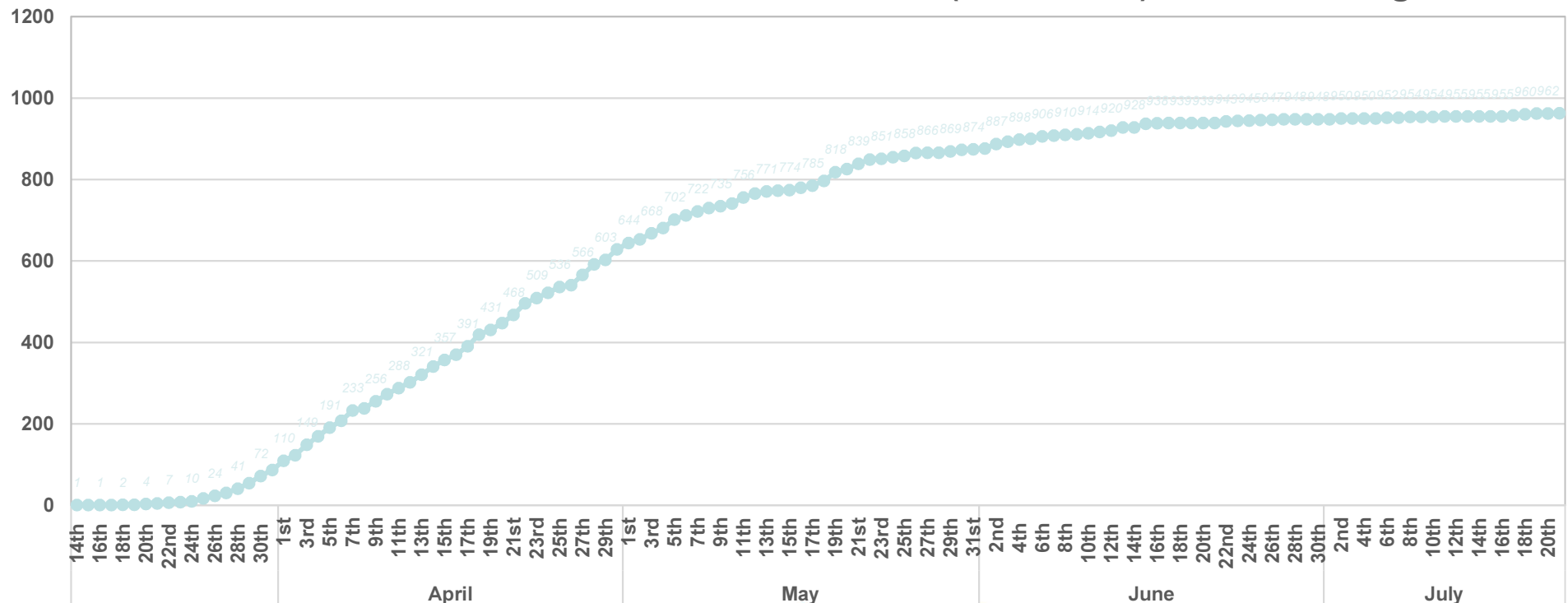


# Prevalence

- Total number of positive cases from testing 963
- Number of positive tests last 7 days 8
- Rate per 100,000 population 683
- 13<sup>th</sup> highest of Upper Tier LA's



COVID-19 Cumulative Positive Cases (Pillar 1 & 2) - Middlesbrough



# Finance

- **Government has made available:**

Grant provided to date for direct costs is £10.7m

Lost income reimbursed as follows:

Council meet first 5%

Govt meet 75% of remainder

Council tax losses can be recouped by up to 3 years

- **Council position**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost/Loss</u>	<u>Govt</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Direct cost	£7.3m	£7.3m	Nil	Further £3.4m available
Loss of Income	£6.9m	£4.9m	£2.0m	
Savings delayed	£2.3m	Nil	£2.3m	
Council Tax	£3.9m	Nil	£3.9m	Can be budgeted over 3 years
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20.4m</b>	<b>£12.2m</b>	<b>£8.2m</b>	<b>All being factored into MTFP</b>

# Powers

- New powers assigned by Government with effect from 18 July 2020

Council now has the power to;  
Close specific premises  
Shut public outdoor spaces  
Cancel events

- Currently assessing governance options in relating to exercising of these powers (completion date 29 July)



# Return of Council staff

- Planning for return of staff to central building on a phased basis
- Reoccupation likely to commence October 2020 (subject to Covid prevalence)
- Reduction of 50-60% in desks
- Number of policy/procedural decisions made to aid implementation:
  - Working from home – up to 3 days per week
  - Home workspace arrangements - Council retains liability under H&S law
  - Exclusions under certain conditions such as inability to work at home
  - Hot desks /desk rotation
  - Virtual meetings as standard
  - Desk-booking software

# Decisions made last 4 weeks

Date	Event	Action taken
19/06/2020	Temperature Gun Deployment	Launch and media plan discussed and approved to go live on 01/07/2020.
25/06/2020	Face to face birth and death registrations.	Gold Command approved resumption of face to face birth / death registrations following receipt and installation of final protective equipment / screens, etc.
25/06/2020	Reopening of Parks' buildings.	Recovery Group approved.
25/06/2020	Reopening approvals.	Recovery decision taken to approve building reoccupation / reopening requests in principle, providing up to date risk assessments and appropriate safety mechanisms are in place.
25/06/2020	Crematorium capacity increase.	Recovery Group approved proposal to increase Crematorium chapel capacity in-line with Government guidance.
25/06/2020	Bus Station pedestrian flows.	Recovery Group approved re-establishing two-way system in Bus Station (including use of toilets).
02/07/2020	Reopening of playgrounds.	Recovery Group approved the proposal to reopen playgrounds in parks from 04/07/2020, following national guidance issued.
09/07/2020	Reopening of Leisure Centres.	Financial forecast brought for discussion on potential reopening of Leisure Centres. A temporary decision was taken to keep them closed until 01/08/2020, at which point it is expected Government will have made further announcements that may impact, though a further paper will be brought back to Gold following those announcements which would take into consideration any additional impact and intended approach.
16/07/2020	Reopening of Leisure Centres.	A further briefing note on proposed SLM costs / approach to reopening leisure centres was discussed. It was agreed that opening MSV 25/07, Rainbow 01/09, Neptune 01/04 was the preferred option at this stage and will be progressed accordingly, with a view to a report requiring Single Member Exec decision being developed for consideration 24/07..
16/07/2020	Bulky waste collections.	Gold / Recovery noted that the bulky waste service will resume from 20/07/2020.
16/07/2020	Bus Station.	Proposal approved for wearing of face masks in bus station to be made compulsory from 24/07/2020.