



22nd May 2020

From Terri Eynon CC, Labour Group Leader

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IMPACT AND RESPONSE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Labour Group wishes to express its thanks once again to the officers of this Council for their response to the Coronavirus pandemic and to express our condolences to all Leicestershire residents who have been affected both directly by the disease and indirectly by the necessary self-isolation measures taken to prevent its spread.

The Labour Group remain concerned regarding the funding gap facing this Council due to increased service costs and reduced commercial income and as it faces the prospect of lost Council tax due to increasing unemployment and business failures. We support demands from the County Councils Network for an 'Income Guarantee' and believe that the Government should not only address this current crisis but also implement a much needed and long-awaited reform of funding for Social Care and address the problems with Special Educational Needs.

- Will this Council be making formal representation to the Government regarding these issues?

The Labour Group welcome the involvement of this Council's Public Health Department in advising our community regarding risk and socially distancing and look forward to making use of data the Government's so-called 'world-beating' 'test, track and trace' model when it finally arrives in a usable form.

- We would like to be assured that Local Government will be appropriately funded to do this work.

The Labour Group share community concerns regarding the reopening of schools. Many children rely on public transport to get to school and not all of them will be able to walk or cycle. Lift-sharing will contravene social distancing advice. This has the potential for a significant increase in school-gate parking.

- We would like to see a specific Highways report addressing these issues.

The Labour Group are appalled by the way Covid-19 has devastated Care Home communities and support the work done by officers of this Council to

intervene in this public health disaster. We would like to understand how this Council is addressing other issues involving the Care sector: -

- Are the principles of infection management now being adopted for Care Home Staff also being used to reduce the risk to givers and receivers of Home-Care?
- Are Home-Care staff able to access sufficient Personal Protective Equipment?
- Are rotas being adjusted to reduce the number of different carers going into an individual's home?
- What support, including mental health support, is being offered to informal and unpaid Carers?
- Is an assessment being made of the impact of Covid-19 on Young Carers especially those caring for family members with mental health problems?
- What special provision is being made to ensure Young Carers do not fall behind in their education?

The Labour Group look forward to supporting this Council as we move towards 'recovery' and the adoption of a 'new normal' to deal with the ongoing effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Dr Terri Eynon MRCPsych FRCGP