

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 25 February 2021

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| TITLE | COVID-19 Rapid Testing Centre | | |
| Ward(s) | All wards | | |
| Author: Rachel Metcalfe | Job title: Public Health Business and Partnership Manager | | |
| Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig | Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen | | |
| Proposal origin: <i>Other</i> | | | |
| Decision maker: Officer Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i> | | | |
| Purpose of Report: To confirm the establishment and operation of a COVID-19 rapid test centre for Bristol in line with government requirements. | | | |
| <p>Evidence Base:</p> <p>The Government’s top priority for testing for Coronavirus is to implement testing where it is needed most to save lives, protect the most vulnerable, and enable vital health and care services to operate safely. Testing is a key element of outbreak break management and Rapid testing is a key element of government policy to contain the virus and local authorities are expected to roll out a rapid testing programme against key specifications.</p> <p>Rapid Testing / Lateral Flow (rapid) Testing is a new technology which provides a rapid result which does not require a laboratory. By using this to find asymptomatic cases chains of transmission can be interrupted early.</p> <p>The Director of Public Health for Bristol was required to develop a Local Testing Strategy for the City and has identified target populations to be tested either through a test centre or within specific settings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An employer partner model – currently Bristol Port Authority but due to extend in January to Avonmouth and City Centre 2. A learning disability partner model 3. A community partner model (through tier 3 community testing programme) 4. Pop up rapid testing (through tier 3 community testing programme) <p>During the latest lockdown (January 2021), the Government has announced that local authorities need to provide rapid testing to workers who need to leave home to undertake their work.</p> <p>The Bristol testing centre has the capacity to test up to 5000 people a week. This provides a flexible mode of delivery which different groups can access. Initial focus will be on taxi drivers, bus drivers, personal carers not covered by other programmes; and key council workers, and this will be reviewed to respond to demand and emerging priorities.</p> <p>Due to the short timescale to establish a a rapid test centre in January 2021, approval was sought from the Executive Director People under the current scheme of delegation in consultation with the Cabinet Member Finance, Governance and Performance, the Chief Executive, and s.151 Officer. The emergency decision taken by the Executive Director is now being reported to Cabinet in accordance with the appropriate procedure and in the interests of transparency.</p> | | | |

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:
That Cabinet

1. Confirm the establishment of a Covi-19 Rapid Testing centre at a cost of £1.75m from the outbreak management fund.
2. Authorise the Executive Director People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member Communities, Equalities & Public Health to take all steps required to maintain the Testing Centre in accordance with Government requirements.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

The development of the test centre is about looking after the health and well being of citizens as well as enabling those in front facing roles to continue to work or to take measures to self-isolate if at risk of Covid infection (Empowering and caring)

City Benefits:

Rapid / Lateral Flow Tests enable us to reach a higher proportion of the population, targeted where it will have the most impact, supporting the economy and wider society to return to a normal way of life.

We have procured services through local SME companies, with a focus on local employment and sector support. To invest in the local economy.

Consultation Details: None

Background Documents: Business case approved by the Strategic Director.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Revenue Cost | £1,744,153 | Source of Revenue Funding | Revenue from Contain Outbreak Management Fund |
| Capital Cost | £ | Source of Capital Funding | <i>e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.</i> |
| One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> | Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/> |

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: Bristol City Council has been given £5.3m grant funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. This funding has been provided and must help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health. The Covid 19 rapid test centre is expected to cost £1.7m and will be fully funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. On this basis expenditure will be contained within grant income and it is not expected to impact on the Council's financial position.

Finance Business Partner: Denise hunt, Finance Business Partner

2. Legal Advice: Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 14 January 2021

3. Implications on IT: : No anticipated impact on IT Services.

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, Director Digital transformation 14/01/21

4. HR Advice: There are no direct HR implications arising from the development of the test centre however it will be beneficial to our employees in front line roles who can access the testing quickly which will ensure they can remain in work or take appropriate action to ensure risk of infection is minimised.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing 21/01/21

| | | |
|--|------------------|----------|
| EDM Sign-off | Alison Hurley | 12/01/21 |
| Cabinet Member sign-off | Cllr Asher Craig | 14/01/21 |
| For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off | Mayor's Office | 27/01/21 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal | NO |
| Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external | NO |
| Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny | NO |
| Appendix D – Risk assessment | NO |
| Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal | NO |
| Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal | NO |
| Appendix G – Financial Advice | NO |
| Appendix H – Legal Advice | NO |
| Appendix I – Exempt Information | NO |
| Appendix J – HR advice | NO |
| Appendix K – ICT | NO |
| Appendix L – Procurement | NO |