

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Local Covid-19 Test Site: Cherry Tree Lane Car Park
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Jason Frost
SLT Lead:	DPH Mark Ansell
Report Author and contact details:	Elaine Greenway, Public Health Consultant Elaine.greenway@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	There is an urgent need to increase uptake of Covid-19 testing in Havering; an important measure in controlling outbreaks of infection (Outbreak Control Plan).
Financial summary:	The costs of setting up and running the site are covered by the national testing programme. The loss in revenue as a result of operating the site as a public car park is estimated to be £19,231
Relevant OSC:	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes, it is a non-key decision by a member of staff

Non-key Executive Decision

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[✓]
Places making Havering	[✓]
Opportunities making Havering	[]
Connections making Havering	[]

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To agree a six month arrangement for a Covid-19 Testing Site located in the Cherry Tree Lane Car Park
2. To note the loss of parking income estimated at £19,231.
3. To agree in principle to a six month arrangement for a second site at MyPlace, Harold Hill if this is offered by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

REPORT DETAIL

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) invited local authorities to identify local sites that may be used for Covid-19 testing. The aim is to improve access to testing, particularly among groups that may have more difficulty in accessing a test.

The local criteria applied in identifying suitable local sites were:

- To be a neighbourhood with low levels of car ownership so that nearby residents can walk to a test site
- Locations must have sufficient parking so that residents from across the borough can access the site by car
- Public transport was not taken into account as anyone symptomatic should not be travelling by bus or train

Two locations were identified that fitted the criteria:

1. Rainham: Cherry Tree Lane Car Park
2. Harold Hill: MyPlace Car Park

DHSC has agreed to locate a testing site on the Rainham site. No decision has yet been received regarding the Harold Hill site.

If approved, the timeline for Rainham is:

- 14 September – Site Survey by DHSC agents (Deloitte's)
- 15 September – Build
- 16 September – Testing pilot

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Planning permission is not required in this instance. Emergency Planning legislation is in place, which allows for such facilities for up to 6 months under 'permitted development'. The facility will remain in situ for the period.

Members are asked to note that parking charges are in place at the Cherry Tree car park with current estimated loss of income of £19,231. Parking at MyPlace is free.

There are 4 resident parking permits for the Cherry Tree car park with no other alternatives. These residents will be advised to park at the bottom of the car park away from the Test Centre site. No resident permits are issued for MyPlace.

There are recycling facilities on site at Cherry Tree car park that will be considered as part of the site survey on 14 September at which time recommendations will be made and adjustments suggested. The height restriction on this site is removable and can be put back in place once the Test Centre is in position and after it leaves the site.

Occupation of the site(s) will be regulated by way of a Licence being prepared by the council's Legal Team

In recent weeks it has become increasingly important that uptake of testing should increase:

- Infection rates have been increasing in the borough
- Positivity rates are increasing

Locating a test site in the borough is an important part of an overall strategy to tackle covid-19 infections in the borough and a vital element of the Community Outbreak Standard Operating Procedure.

The decision to bring walk-in testing facilities to the borough compliments the decision also being sought from Members to approve Local by Default Covid-19 Contact Tracing, which is subject to a separate Non-Key Executive Decision paper.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Council Constitution, Part3, Section 3.2, Powers of the Chief Executive.

(c) To carry out the functions of the Council for civil aid and emergency planning and to take any action, including incurring expenditure, in connection with an emergency or a disaster in the borough.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

As a part of the London Resilience arrangements for the Covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Havering Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan, there is an urgent need to increase uptake of testing.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Non-key Executive Decision

To continue with existing arrangements (drive through testing / mobile testing unit / postal testing). There are no other options available to increase access to testing.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

None

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Jane West

Designation: Chief Operating Officer

Signature:

Date: 3.09.20

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The agreement put forward to Havering is a 6 month agreement for the use of the Cherry Tree Car Park. Occupation will be regulated by way of a Licence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Costs of setting up and running the Test site will be covered by the DHSC. Loss of 6-months parking revenue at Cherry Tree Car Park is estimated at £19,231 based on the same period last year.

Parking at MyPlace is free and therefore there are no issues with regard to lost revenue.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no HR implications.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

Making testing available in less-advantaged neighbourhoods such as Rainham and Harold Hill seeks to redress the disadvantage that residents in these neighbourhoods may experience in accessing testing for Covid-19.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Non-key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

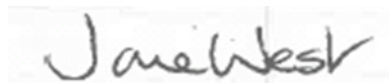
I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Jane West

Cabinet Portfolio held:
CMT Member title: Chief Operating Officer
Head of Service title
Other manager title:

Date: 11th September 2020

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Democratic Services Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____