



## **CABINET - 23RD JUNE 2021**

**SUBJECT: GWENT COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the health protection and control measures that are in place across Gwent to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in our communities.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the updated Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In July 2020 Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities and Health Boards to ask that they prepare joint Local Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plans. The Guidance issued at that time has been revised and Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities and Health Boards on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 requesting that Plans be updated. The updated Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan is attached at Appendix A for Cabinet's consideration.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet consider and endorse the updated Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the updated Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 In July 2020 Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities and Health Boards to ask that they prepare joint Local Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plans. The Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan was developed in August 2020, before the

second wave of coronavirus cases. As Welsh Government has eased restrictions and moved Wales out of lockdown there is a need to have revised plans to respond to cases, cluster, outbreaks and incident management over the coming six to nine months. Revised Guidance has been developed by Public Health Wales and Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities and Health Boards on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 requesting that Plans be updated and submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

5.2 The aim of the Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan is to prevent, detect and manage outbreaks of Covid-19 and to implement effective health protection and control measures across Gwent to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in our communities. The Gwent Plan has been developed in partnership by the organisations comprising the Gwent Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and is based on the following principles:

- the primary responsibility is to make the public safe
- build on public health expertise and use a systems approach
- be open with data and insight so everyone can protect themselves and others
- build consensus between decision-makers to secure trust, confidence and consent
- follow well-established communicable disease control and emergency management principles
- consider equality, economic, social and health-related impacts of decisions.

5.3 The Gwent Plan links to a number of other plans that are in place in the region and is cross-referenced with national plans including (but not limited to) the following:

- Coronavirus Control Plan: revised alert levels in Wales
- Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales
- Testing Strategy for Wales
- COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy
- Operational Guidance for Schools
- Conceptual Framework for Management of VAMC in Wales
- End-to-end Process Manual for responding to cases and clusters of VAMC

5.4 In accordance with the Guidance the updated Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan describes organisational structures that are in place across the region, together with roles and responsibilities. It sets out the role of surveillance, and also sampling and testing arrangements. The Plan addresses preventative measures including communication and engagement with our communities to promote adherence to aspects such as social distancing or self isolation when necessary. This also includes our approach to enforcement, the vaccination programme, and arriving travellers. A number of higher risk settings are also identified within the plan and the relevant controls for these settings are described.

5.5 The Gwent Plan sets out the response to clusters, incidents, and outbreaks, and how decision-making is escalated locally, regionally, nationally, when these are increasing and there are wider impacts warranting a wider response. Leadership for the wider local or regional measures rests with Welsh Ministers, working in concert with local elected Leaders to coordinate local and regional responses.

## 5.6 **Conclusion**

The updated Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan is attached at Appendix

A for Cabinet's consideration.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 Modelling is regularly reviewed in line with actual data and easing of restrictions. Recent modelling by UK Government's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling (SPI-M) and Swansea University suggest a third wave is highly likely, although the timing, scale and shape of this wave is not certain.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this Report seeks Cabinet's endorsement of a submitted Plan.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.  
The Local Government Act 2000  
Welsh Ministers have passed a number of Regulations dealing with coronavirus restrictions and requirements and the latest details can be found here:  
[Welsh Government webpage - Coronavirus legislation: related legislation](#)

## **12. URGENCY**

- 12.1 The decision will be subject to the "call-in" procedure.

Author: Rob Hartshorn – Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Consultees: Mark S. Williams – Corporate Director, Economy and Environment  
Cllr Nigel George – Cabinet Member for Waste, Public Protection and Street Scene  
Councillor D.T Davies, Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor A. Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny

Committee

Rob Tranter - Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Lynne Donovan – Head of People Services

Anwen Cullinane - Senior Policy Officer (Equalities, Welsh Language, and Consultation)

Steve Harris - Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer

Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager

Jacqui Morgan, Trading Standards, Licensing and Registrars Manager

Ruth Betty, Contact Tracing Service Manager

Steve Pugh, Head of Communications

Background Papers:

Coronavirus Control Plan: revised alert levels in Wales

Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales

Testing Strategy for Wales

COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy

Operational Guidance for Schools

Appendices:

Appendix A: Gwent Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan