

Appendix A4: COMF 2021/22 - Detail on the continued interventions requiring contingency funding under the local outbreak management plan

BCP Council has provided an effective response to COVID-19 through the Our Dorset Health Protection Board, Local Outbreak Engagement Board, and Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP).

The LOMP is now being updated following publication of the Government's Autumn and Winter Plan, and the refreshed Contain framework – now called Local Engagement and Response Framework (Contain is no longer being used).

The following paragraphs set out the main interventions under the local outbreak management plan that will continue to be required under the plans, along with provisional estimates for contingency spend required to continue provision. Please note that this is subject to change at short notice and is also dependent in some cases on the local employment market.

1. Test, Trace, Isolate - local tracing partnerships will continue through autumn and winter. The team currently contact traces around half of the cases and is funded until December 2021. If the service were to continue until March 2022 and pick up increasing cases, estimate is an additional £226,000 in total. Note recruitment challenge if no certainty of funding beyond March 2022.
2. Asymptomatic (lateral flow) testing including community testing continues until December 31st under a separate funding agreement with the Department of Health and Social Care. There are ongoing project management costs for Councils in requiring a single point of contact for liaison about testing sites. Recommended contingency of £50,000.
3. Local outbreak response will continue with clear local authority and DPH responsibility. Public Health operates a day response team, that has needed additional short term capacity from interims with health protection skills from time to time. Recommendation is to set aside contingency for interim roles of £100,000.
4. Additional support to regulatory services / businesses to manage COVID safely and help clear backlog of growing food hygiene inspections and non-COVID work - £50,000.
5. Support for enduring transmission / Enhanced response if needed through rapid community swabbing. Currently undertaken by Dorset Healthcare. Recommend additional contingency of £100,000.
6. Surge testing of COVID variants of concern - covered by previous COMF allocations – reconciliation underway to see how much has been spent and whether future allocation required.
7. Communications - several COMF bids underway but recommend setting aside contingency of £100,000 in case urgent door drop was required again, similar to last winter.
8. Possible implementation of Plan B - LA role in compliance and enforcement of face coverings, COVID certification unclear but could be approximately £100,000 per council.
9. Local support to assist people with COVID certificate queries – £200,000 to cover possible additional support via customer services in each Council.
10. Employer lateral flow testing costs focused on employees least likely to undertake testing independently of £250,000 to provide 12 bi-weekly tests for 1,000 employees over the period.