



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place and Senior Responsible Officer for Covid-19 Recovery

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	26 November 2020
Subject:	Covid-19 Update

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the work by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), partners and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to manage Lincolnshire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The significant disruption created by Covid-19 has forced authorities and communities to change their behaviours and routine working practices, which although unsettling, has demonstrated what is achievable through collaborative working, and the Council and its strategic partners aim to ensure that such positive outcomes are maintained to help inform future service delivery to improve our services.

As well as serious implications for people's health and public services, Covid-19 is having a significant impact on the economy and the response / recovery approach will need to be considered against an uncertain economic backdrop. This issue is compounded by increases in demand in areas of service activity such as social care teams, wellbeing services, infection control etc.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) is invited to:

- 1) Consider the report and provide feedback on the points raised.
- 2) Review and agree future reporting requirements into OSMB to monitor the progress of the Council's recovery.

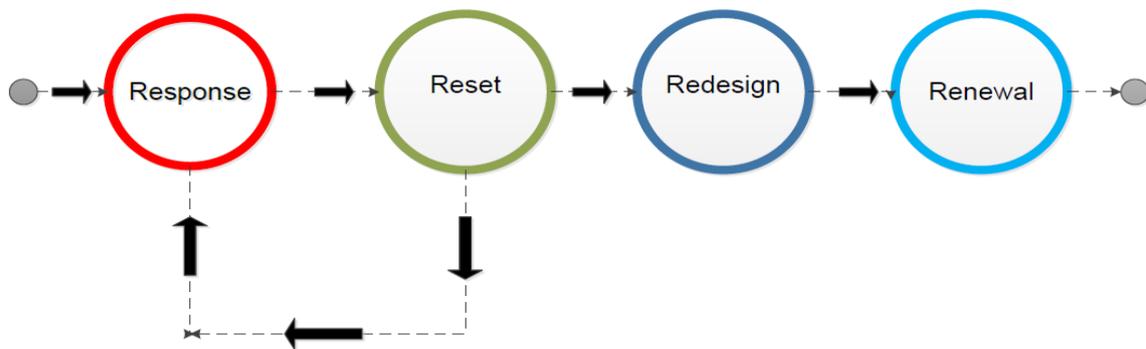
1. Background

At the Board meeting in October, consideration was given to a report which provided an overview of the partnership approach and governance arrangements to manage Lincolnshire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were advised that as well as serious implications for people's health and public services, Covid-19 had impacted on the economy and the recovery approach would need to be considered against an uncertain economic backdrop, which was compounded by an increase in demand in areas of service activity such as social care teams, wellbeing services and infection control.

OSMB requested that a further report be prepared for the November meeting and this report sets out the progress and activity of the Lincolnshire's Local Resilience Forum (LRF) since October, highlighting the challenges we face and the threat, risk and harm we must mitigate.

As discussed at the October meeting of the Board, recovery and response will overlap depending on the 'R' value. There will not be a clear separation between the response and recovery phases during this emergency.



However, since the meeting in October, we have seen a significant resurgence of the disease nationally and this has been reflected locally with a significant increase of infection within the communities in Lincolnshire.

On the 5 November 2020, the UK began a second period of lockdown. The UK Government maintained we must act to control the spread of the virus. They maintain the single most important action we can all take to fight coronavirus is to stay at home, to protect the NHS and save lives.

Guidance issued by [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) requires us to reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, to reduce the spread of the infection. Consequently, from Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, Lincolnshire must:

1. Stay at home, except for specific purposes.
2. Avoid meeting people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
3. Close certain businesses and venues.

These new measures will reduce the growth rate of the virus, which will:

- prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed
- ensure schools, colleges and universities can stay open
- ensure that as many people as possible can continue to work

On Thursday 5 November these national restrictions replaced the Local Covid Alert Level measures (the Board was updated on a three tier approach in October).

The new measures will apply nationally for four weeks up to and including Wednesday 2 December. At the end of that period, the UK may return to a regional approach, based on the latest data (please see section 2 of this report). Therefore Lincolnshire is currently under lockdown and continues to follow the national guidance of:

- **Hands** – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- **Face** – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- **Space** – stay two metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or one metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

The public health measures introduced to mitigate the transmission of Covid-19 include social distancing, Test & Trace and the wearing of PPE including face masks which continue to minimise the spread of infection and risk to life within Lincolnshire. As before, the key to response and recovery continues to be a concerted effort from all partners and the public to maintain the ‘R’ value below 1.

These measures will be underpinned by law. Police and other authorities will have powers to give fines and break up gatherings.

2. Latest Data

As of the 13 November 2020 the latest data for Lincolnshire can be found in the table below:

Tests¹ (Updated: 13 November 2020 at 15:07)

	Total tests Carried Out	Total Positive Tests	% Positive Tests	Positive Cases	Rate of Positive Cases per 100,000 population
Lincolnshire	14,871	2,270	15.3%	2,050	269.3
Boston	1,236	245	19.8%	231	329.2
East Lindsey	3,375	620	18.4%	556	392.3
Lincoln	2,241	362	16.2%	327	329.3
North Kesteven	2,191	308	14.1%	277	236.9
South Holland	1,425	208	14.6%	182	191.5
South Kesteven	2,623	277	10.6%	255	179.0
West Lindsey	1,780	250	14.0%	222	232.1

¹ The data in the table above is a rolling 7 day summary of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 Tests.

Data has been extracted from Public Health England (PHE) daily line lists, which provide data on laboratory confirmed cases and tests captured through their Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). The rates shown are crude rates per 100,000 resident population.

Cases (updated: 13 November 2020 at 15:07)

11,327 cases to date for Lincolnshire Residents, 2,050 in the last 7 days

	Cases in the last 7 Days	Cases to Date	Daily Cases
Lincolnshire	2,050	11,327	4
Boston	231	1,235	1
East Lindsey	556	2,130	1
Lincoln	327	1,875	0
North Kesteven	277	1,497	0
South Holland	182	1,488	1
South Kesteven	255	1,854	1
West Lindsey	222	1,247	0

Data on cases are sourced from Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS). This is PHE's surveillance system for laboratory confirmed cases. Lab confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 confirmed in the last 24 hours are reported daily by NHS and PHE diagnostic laboratories. This is the most accurate and up to date version of data and as such it will not align with the data that is published nationally ([link to tracker](#)) due to delays in reporting.

Deaths (Updated: 15 November 2020 at 16:09)

Area	Total deaths	Total deaths in the last 7 days
Lincolnshire	393	42
Boston	43	8
East Lindsey	85	13
Lincoln	43	3
North Kesteven	43	3
South Holland	76	6
South Kesteven	61	5
West Lindsey	42	4

Total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic of people who had had a positive test result for Covid-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test.

The actual cause of death may not be Covid-19 in all cases. People who died from Covid-19 but had not tested positive are not included and people who died from Covid-19 more than 28 days after their first positive test are not included. Data on Covid-19 associated deaths in England are produced by Public Health England from multiple sources linked to confirmed case data. Deaths newly reported each day cover the 24 hours up to 5pm on the previous day.

As of 31 August 2020, the methodology for counting Covid-19 deaths was amended and as such the total number of Covid-19 related deaths was

reduced. Data is available to Local Authorities and the general public here <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/deaths>.

3. LRF Activity

As highlighted in October's report, with the escalation of infection and subsequent change in approach (from recovery to response) has meant the way in which the LRF is managed has also changed. On the 24 September 2020, the decision was taken by the LRF to move from recovery back to response phase of this emergency, with the reintroduction of Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) / Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) structure.

The LRF continues to identify the threat, risk and harm presented by the infection. With this improved understanding of the risk, a response plan has been approved by the SCG to inform how we support Covid-19 secure measures locally. This plan will be monitored and owned by the SCG, working closely with partners, government and voluntary/community groups to ensure the needs of communities are supported.

The LRF is working hard in identifying problems and vulnerabilities in our community, which may require priority attention and feeding them back to the relevant response cells, in addition to disseminating credible information and advice back to the community, supporting community cohesion and providing public reassurance.

Response Cells Update

The continued priority for the LRF is to provide assurance over how frontline services are provided in a way that continues to save and protect life. An update on key cell activity is outlined in the following sections based on the LRF structure (Appendix A).

Multi-Agency Information Cell

Supporting the LRF in sharing knowledge and information is the Multi Agency Information Cell (MAIC). The purpose of the MAIC is to source, assess, analyse, display and disseminate situational information on the progress of the Covid-19 incident, through the Power Bi Dashboard and the weekly Foresight and Intelligence Report. The foresight report (shared with partners across Lincolnshire) is available to Members upon request. This is due to the sensitive nature of the information contained within the report.

System Coordination Centre

The System Coordination Centre (SCC) co-operates and co-ordinates local system responses to Covid-19 outbreaks across the LRF system, to ensure a proportionate response is being instigated to areas of concern or confirmed outbreaks.

The main update from the SCC is the issues previously reported around Pillar 1 testing issues, are now mostly resolved. The problems centred on the existing analysers as they were not built to process this capacity. As a result, new machines are now in place which has seen a return to Pillar 1 test turnaround times in under 27 hours.

In addition, there are no major issues with Pillar 2, which has also been used to support care home outbreaks.

Health and Social Care Cell

The overarching role of the Health and Social Care (H&SC) cell in response is to assess the health/social/educational service provision needs for affected communities and to enable vulnerable communities and/or individuals to be identified and that tactical options to support their needs are put in place. The key issues that the H&SC cell are dealing with are:

Commissioned Service Cell

- The cell is continuing to work through mitigation for staff absence in the homecare sector, and a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) tool for the sector is being developed.
- LCC Commercial Team moving to 7 day working to support escalation.
- Designated care settings – one up and running and accepting referrals/placements. Work on-going to identify further sites following first bidding round (6 bids, 1 currently live, 1 further potential site but awaiting approvals from Care Quality Commission (CQC)).

Homelessness

- The 'Protect Programme' funding (the £15m that The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, announced) is only for London Boroughs and ten areas of highest need outside London – which does not include Lincolnshire. Therefore there is no further funding or a specific plan for local implementation. We remain reliant on district councils doing all they can on a daily basis to find accommodation and bring rough sleepers in during the lockdown and the longer winter period. The team will continue to look at potential for 'warming centres' and district councils will continue to source suitable temporary accommodation in case the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) needs to be initiated in any district.
- The new protections for renters during national lockdowns (which stops landlords from bringing in bailiffs to remove someone from their property) will continue until 11 January 2021 where they have fallen behind with their rent through no fault of their own.
- The moratorium on evictions has ended, however the extended timeline that is required (to get possession) is now 6 months. The possible increase of homeless presentations remains on hold.

Vaccination Cell / Vaccination Roll Out

The overarching role of the Vaccination Cell is to develop and implement an immunisation strategy (Covid-19 and Influenza) and delivery plan for the Lincolnshire STP (Sustainability and Transformation Partnership). Although achievement of uptake targets is the overarching objective of the cell, the reduction in inequalities in flu immunisation uptake will be a critical consideration in the development of the delivery models and will be supported by the production of an Equality Impact Assessment. It is worth noting that this cell is led by the NHS (command and control) who are responsible for delivery of the vaccine. However the LRF are supporting the NHS with logistical help and linking directly into the Warn and Inform Cell.

During November the cell has focused on the vaccination roll out and include the following key points to note:

- Working to go live 1 December for Vaccination Roll Out Programme.
- Two mass sites have been identified within the County.
- The Military will be delivering the pods over the next 10 days into one of those mass sites, and demonstrating set up for the other local sites.
- Primary Care Networks (PCN) will designate their sites by 18 November. If there are any short falls or PCNs choosing not to engage, the gaps will be covered by the Vaccination cell.
- Communications commencing with Care Homes and health and social care workforce vaccination week commencing 16 November.
- Data will be “locked in” on Wednesday to enable cohort planning for December. This will identify volume and therefore resource needs.
- There will be national and regional Vaccination Coordination Centres that will resource, coordinate and deliver vaccine nationally. This becomes the Number 1 priority for NHS. The NHS will review the requirement to change all resources models and processes to accommodate this. Business As Usual (BAU) work will still continue.

The LRF is providing support to the Vaccination Cell with data sharing and logistical support.

Communities and Volunteer Coordination Cell

The Communities and Volunteer Coordination (CVC) Cell has now moved back into Response which means that:

- The focus has returned to supporting those who are most vulnerable, particularly in relation to local outbreaks.
- The focus is on actively mobilising volunteers and community groups.

- The learning from Wave 1 and the work to secure a legacy is now 'business as usual' for LCC's Community Engagement Team, and others including Involving Lincs and the Voluntary Executive Team.

This month the CVC Cell has been focussed on the following:

- Emergency food provision - the Cell is reviewing the existing arrangements under review in relation to the DEFRA funds and emergency food parcels.
- Volunteer Co-ordination – the Cell is co-ordinating the following activity:
 - Door knocks to support CEV requests for help (if no reply to three phone calls, volunteer is sent to check).
 - Weekend Testing in Care Homes – supporting delivery and collection of testing kits to homes / homes to lab.
 - Request to support contact tracing with door knocks / leaflet – go live week commencing 16 November.
 - Request to support vaccination centres – discussion this week.
- Test & Trace Support
 - Monitoring payments with District Council (DC) colleagues.
 - Emergency food arrangements as required.
- Winter Payments
 - Working closely with LCC Children's Services to join up schemes (e.g. food provision).

Mortality Planning Cell

The role of the Mortality Planning Cell is to provide a capability to meet key planning assumptions relating to excess deaths as agreed by the Director of Public Health (DPH) and SCG, based on reasonable worst case scenario. In addition, the Cell maintains an understanding of the local demand and capacity, as well as provides data into reporting mechanisms as required.

The Cell is starting to consistently see rise in deaths in Lincolnshire, particularly in Boston. A decision has been taken this month to move to 'active management' of excess deaths. Other activities include:

- Lincoln body storage is up and running.
- Week commencing (w/c) 16 November, Fire and Police are up and running to help with body movement.
- Registered deaths (w/c 16 November) are 158
- Funeral Director webinar this week (w/c 16 November)
- The option to open up the site at Woodhall remains under review given there is a two week lead in time to make it operational.

Engagement, Education and Compliance Cell

The purpose of the Engagement, Education and Compliance (EEC) Cell is to develop, map, manage and co-ordinate a structured approach across partners (public sector, partners, business and volunteer sector) that support strategic and tactical recovery plans. This is achieved by co-ordinating the capture, collection, analysis and re-dissemination of information and data to support improved enforcement and compliance decision making across Lincolnshire.

The key activity from the EEC Cell this month has been:

- Lockdown has not brought any reduction. Trading Standards (TS) and districts and police are receiving an increasing number of calls from business and public regarding what is acceptable and compliant.
- More 'click and collect', so far more open on 'High Streets' and lots more compliance visits.
- Few issues with interpretations - car washes should close but some automatic ones have stayed open. Carpet showrooms claim to be part of building trade. Pawn brokers are financial services but retail elements of shops cannot open.
- Still seeing shops open with food shelves with tea bags etc. Can sell those but not other things they would normally sell.

LRF partners are seeing progress with compliance supported by a more consistent approach across the county. However, they report seeing some tension and animosity across the retail sector, particularly in Lincoln and Boston. The team will keep an eye on this as we come out of lockdown. Support is available for businesses.

Business and Economy Cell

The main aim of the Business and Economy (B&E) Cell is to work across business, partners, charities and community to deliver long term sustainable recovery across the county of Lincolnshire. This is achieved in the current response phase by supporting the LRF to engage and educate business in respect of their responsibilities within current Government guidance and legislation. In addition the B&E Cell will help develop LRF resource and capability to support the business community and ensure LRF are applying national guidance and policy.

Key activity this month from the B&E Cell includes:

- Thinking about key messages before and as we come out, working collectively together with cells to discuss.
- Develop a paper for SCG which will be presented at a future meeting as this is more about recovery and the medium / long term vision for B&E in Lincolnshire.
- Support for businesses – how to access support from Government

- Two elements to grant - standard grant and then discretionary grant to fill gaps (NB. gaps not yet defined nationally or locally).
- B&E Cell is working hard to make sure there is not a postcode lottery in terms of focus. The Cell will be making sure consistency is applied across B&E in Lincolnshire.
- Online job and career (11 November) - matched up 60 businesses and 200 job seekers. There was an ability to have individual online chats. The virtual event was a success and will be monthly over the next year due to rising numbers of vacancies and redundancies.

In addition, at the last meeting of the Board, a request was made for an update on the economic impact of Covid-19 in Lincolnshire and the recovery work being undertaken. The report attached at Appendix B provides full detail on the economic impact of Covid-19 as we currently know it, and it sets out the actions that have already been carried out by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and other partners to reduce the impact.

Warn and Inform Cell

The role of the Warn and Inform (W&I) Cell is to shape and deliver a communications strategy that ensures all audiences across Lincolnshire are aware and understand the latest government announcements and advice as well as develop targeted communication assets (digital and social) that reach out to all communities. It achieves this by helping to formulate, update and deliver a communications activity plan that is clear and can be communicated to all relevant partners. In addition it will deliver frequent communication briefings to all LRF partners with concise key messaging and digital assets and be proactive in media opportunities as and when they arise.

Key activity this month from the W&I Cell includes:

- Reiteration of basic messages, Hands/Face/Space, Travel, Shopping etc.
- Support to NHS in terms of pressures - not to attend A&E ring 111, follow up with more localised communications in East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland.
- Vaccination communications is a large issue with media interest - NHS will be leading. The W&I Cell and NHS Communications joined up to agree messaging and briefed key spokespersons with advice to follow national lines.
- Critical phase for W&I Cell - mindful of national message that vaccination is not silver bullet and message that complacency may set in with vaccination coming.
- Social media coverage has picked up, analysis in progress.

BBC Look North attended the County Emergency Centre (CEC) on 17 November and spent time with the LRF / LCC Emergency Planning teams. The coverage

received positive feedback and was a great opportunity to raise the profile of the work that is being carried out by partners across Lincolnshire.

4. Exit Strategy post Lockdown#2

The previous update in October to OSMB highlighted the three tier approach to the country in an effort to reduce the levels of transmission in the community (announced by the UK Government on the 12 October 2020).

Before England went into its second lockdown, nearly a fifth of the population was living in tier three areas - those under the toughest coronavirus restrictions. They included those in West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, the Liverpool City Region, Warrington and Nottinghamshire.

As mentioned earlier in this report, this has been replaced by a National Lockdown on the 5 November until 2 December. However at the end of that period, the UK may return to a regional approach, based on the latest data and the three-tier system (Covid alert levels medium, high and very high) which was used in England to tackle the spread of coronavirus before the national lockdown began.

The UK government is committed to ensuring the right levels of intervention in the right places to manage outbreaks, however the 'tiering of the country' had different effects in each area. Prior to the lockdown, 'Tier three plus' had led to a reduction in cases in the North West, but nationally there was very little effect from tier one. Over the coming weeks the UK Government will review what tiers may be in the future, and possibly strengthening them to help the UK get through the winter months until the vaccine is available for everyone.

That said, the LRF is working hard to ensure that Lincolnshire is ready for 2 December. Work continues on contingency planning for a return to a tiered system of restrictions. All cells have been tasked with contingency planning around different tiers, movement between tiers and working in the county with different tiers.

There are many variables and it is too early to define the plan. However as a group we have collated the cell responses around these contingencies, identifying some common risks. Partners are currently working on where those risks fit and what mitigation we can influence or put in place to help reduce the impact of our Threat, Risk and Harm. It is important that the LRF coordinates the response and we are satisfied our current reporting procedures and structures are fit for purpose.

In addition, preparation continues for life after Lockdown#2. We expect retail and NTE coming back with a vengeance and want to avoid cramming people in. Joint visits are being planned by the EEC Cell and how we can make the best use of marshals across the County.

It is too early to know the impact of the second lockdown in England. Ministers will want to see exactly what happens to cases over the rest of the month. It is hoped the Government will set out next week (w/c 23 November) what the replacement regime will be and if that will be a return to the localised approach. However,

officers strongly recommend that we have a clear understanding about easing of restrictions, with a template approach with re-introduction of the tiers as the preferred approach to exiting lockdown. It is also suggested that Members should also give consideration to lobbying the Government for clear guidance on coming out of lockdown for greater consistency and evidence to see which of the measures employed so far were actually the most impactful on the virus.

5. Conclusion

It will be a fine balance to continue to respond to the risks to health of Covid-19 and protect our communities, whilst responding to a wide range of challenges from across the county. A lot of uncertainty remains about the lifting of public health measures, and subsequent restrictions in the medium term. Protecting the public’s health, and mitigating harm to our residents, families and vulnerable people will continue to be our priority.

The Council and its strategic partners have developed the appropriate governance arrangements to lead Lincolnshire's recovery from the impact of Covid-19, whilst ensuring arrangements can be flexed to respond to any future spikes in infection rates.

6. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

A full risk register is maintained as part of the SCG.

An Impact Analysis is in place and is a live document which will be reviewed throughout the period of the response. This has been developed from the detailed impact assessment and action plan that has been agreed by the LRF.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Return to Response SCG Structure
Appendix B	Report on Post COVID Mid Term Economic Strategy to be presented to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 24 November 2020.

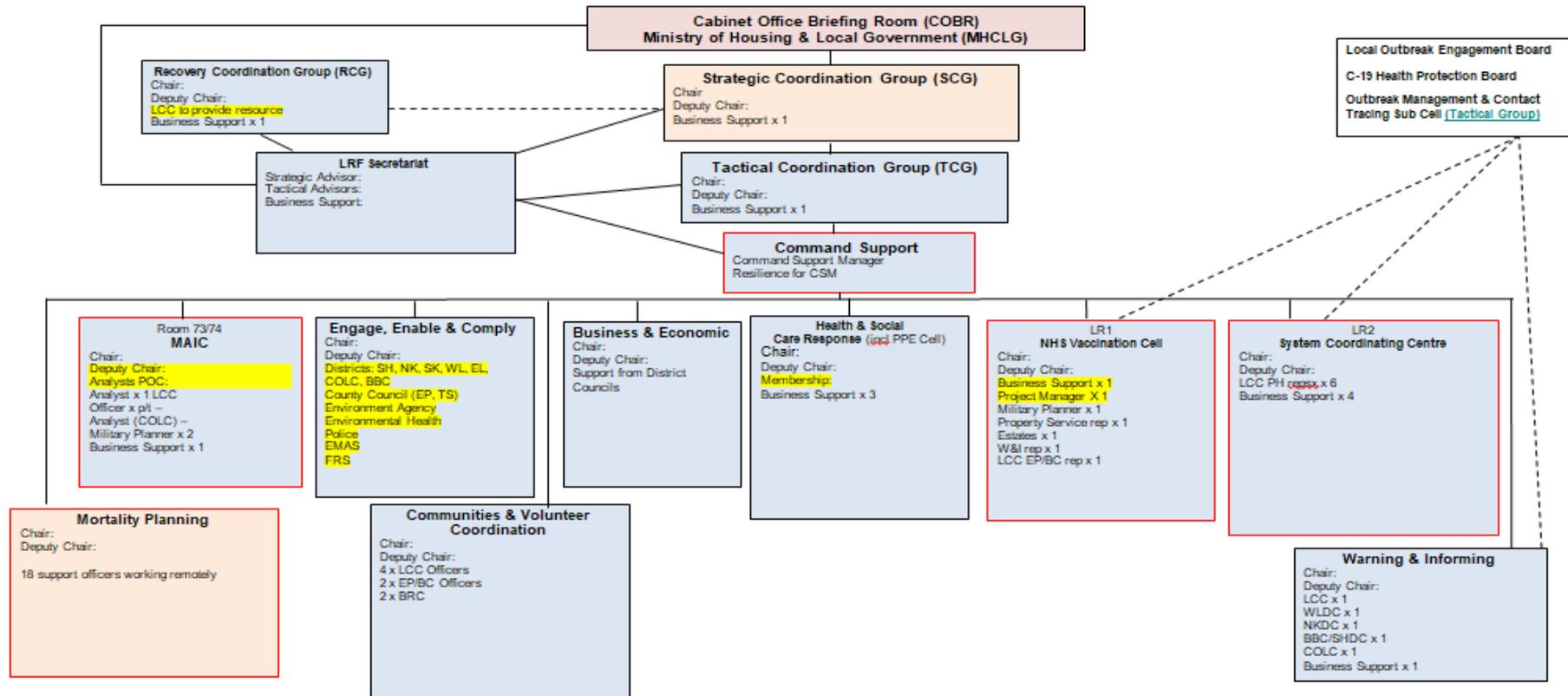
8. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Dan Quinn, who can be contacted on 07799110529 or dan.quinn@lincoln.fire-uk.org

Appendix A

LINCS LRF COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE FOR RETURN TO RESPONSE PHASE with Resources



KEY	
	Physical Cells within CEC
	All other cells operating remotely
	Cell on standby
	Representative required

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