

Teignbridge District Council COVID-19 Recovery Team

Data and Intelligence Cell

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having high quality data as near to real time as possible to support good decision making for the response. As we move into the recovery phase we need different data to help us understand how communities have been impacted by the pandemic and how the support we provide makes a difference. We want to understand both the positive and negative effects being experienced by our communities and shape our policies to respond to their needs.

Our challenge therefore is to gather the right data, both qualitative and quantitative to help us assess the impacts across Teignbridge. This task is challenging and will require a partnership approach, pooling intelligence across the broad spectrum of organisations within the district.

The task of the Data and Intelligence Cell is to gather this intelligence in a coordinated way which avoids unnecessary duplication, to assess the impact of COVID-19 in Teignbridge. The Recovery Team will examine that evidence in order to help us define our recovery objectives across each recovery theme area; Economy, Environment, Place, Communities and Vital Viable Council.

Working Principles

It is proposed that the work of the group be guided by the following working principles:

- A partnership approach is essential to the success of intelligence gathering to support the recovery, we should work collaboratively to pool data and avoid duplication, ensuring that our partners are not inundated with multiple requests to provide the same data sets.
- We should aim to identify and deliver a 'data warehouse' as quickly as we can. The scope of our assessment could be vast and we recognise that many of the medium and long term impacts of COVID-19 are yet to be realised. We need to ensure we have the means to gather key data on an on-going basis.
- We should aim to be agile acknowledging that we may need to change direction quickly in response to new intelligence or changes in context. We should aim to identify sources of data as close to real time as possible.
- We should aim to be innovative and creative, developing new ways of linking to data and make full use of all the technological innovations at our disposal. This could include finding ways to pool and share data and the development of fully automated dashboards.

Duration of Work

- Initially 3 months from mid-August until mid-November.
- NB- data collection to assess the continuing impact of COVID-19 will be an ongoing requirement, however it will not fall within the remit of this cell. It will be the responsibility of the cell to ensure we have the means to continue to collect, store and interpret key data moving forward.

Membership of Data and Intelligence sub group

- The Recovery Project Lead
- The Housing Strategy Lead seconded 3 days per week for a duration of 3 months
- A junior data analyst working full time for a period of 5/ 6 weeks from the start of the project (mid-August to late- September).
- Support provided by the consultant and engagement officer as and when required.

Tasks for the Data and Intelligence Cell

- Agree a set of data schedules for each recovery theme area and undertake an audit of local data sources. Discuss and agree the pooling and storing of shared data.
- Prioritise which data sets require urgent collection to help our services pivot and respond to rapidly emerging demand.
- Support the community impact work being undertaken by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, and ensure that there is no duplication between officer and member led data gathering.
- Develop a method for collecting and assessing people's stories, so we can capture both the positive and negative experiences to be presented alongside quantitative data.
- Consider and agree what our outputs should be e.g. a set of interactive dashboards, and a written report.
- Lead on the collection of data to assess the impact of COVID-19.

Impact Assessment Methodology

The methodology below draws on the Manchester University (alliance) framework for planning recovery and renewal strategies (The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19).

Purpose

The purpose of undertaking impact assessments is to enable the prioritisation of recovery activities and identify opportunities for renewal.

Impact assessments enable organisations to determine which sectors, services and communities have been most affected by COVID-19.

They also allow us to rate and understand how COVID-19 has impacted them.

Understanding the Consequences of COVID-19- Separating Effects, Impacts and Opportunities.

For each theme area, we must ask and understand- 'what consequences has COVID-19 had on this area of work?

For each consequence ask-

- Is it an effect, impact or opportunity?
- What is its impact rating- e.g. positive, limited, moderate, and severe?
- Should it be addressed in the short or longer term- i.e. should it be dealt with through transactional or transformational activity?

Effects:

An effect can be addressed by a direct, wider or strategic recovery action depending on the desired scaler of the intervention.

Effects can be addressed by activities in the short-term.

Impacts:

An impact can also be addressed by direct, wider or strategic recovery action, but only a strategic action can approach the impact comprehensively.

Impacts should be addressed by transformational activities in the longer-term.

Opportunities:

A strategic opportunity can also be addressed by direct, wider or strategic recovery action, but only a strategic recovery action can approach the opportunity comprehensively.

Opportunities which have been exposed through COVID-19 can be addressed by transformational activities in the longer-term.

Impact Assessment Flow Chart

