

**MINUTES OF THE COVID-19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP
HELD ON**

23 September 2020

6.30 - 8.10 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Eugenie Harvey (Chair)
Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Joel Charles
Councillor Tony Edwards
Councillor Mark Ingall
Councillor Andrew Johnson
Councillor Frances Mason
Councillor Russell Perrin

Officers

Brian Keane, Chief Executive
Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning
Emma Crouch, Corporate Support Officer
Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Property and Deputy to the Chief Executive
Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing
Simon Hill, Head of Governance
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer

27. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nancy Watson.

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Simon Carter declared a pecuniary interest as a remunerated Council appointed Director of HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd.

Councillor Joel Charles declared a pecuniary interest as a remunerated Council appointed director of HTS (Housing and Regeneration) Ltd and a non-pecuniary interest as a Council appointed director of HTS Group Ltd.

29. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 August are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

30. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) Minute 24 - Member Nominations to Work Streams

The Chair said that Councillor Nancy Watson was to join the Community Impact work stream.

The Working Group discussed the Welfare Panel and concerns about the succession of housing, particularly when vulnerable adults were involved.

31. **OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND PLANNING**

Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning, gave a presentation setting out the increased rate of infection in Harlow compared to other areas of the region. A copy of the presentation is appended to the minutes. He explained that focus was on preventing the rate of infection from increasing further.

The Working Group discussed the potential impact of a second wave of infections on those who live and work in care homes. It was agreed that a letter would be sent by both Group Leaders to the County Council asking for guarantees on the provision of PPE, and other logistical support.

The Working Group considered methods of tracking the outbreak including an increased use of anti-body testing and through the sewage system. Discussions moved onto 90 minute tests, in particular for ad-hoc care home staff.

The Working Group looked at ways that the Council could act as the community leader. This included more visible cleaning of outdoor spaces, utilising the Community Rangers to assist with social distancing in the town centre, and the provision of disposable masks.

32. **RECOVERY COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The Working Group considered a draft Communications Strategy. Simon Hill, Head of Governance, said there was a focus on engagement with community groups, as well as on outcomes. It would become part of the Council's overall communications strategy.

RESOLVED that the draft Communications Strategy was noted.

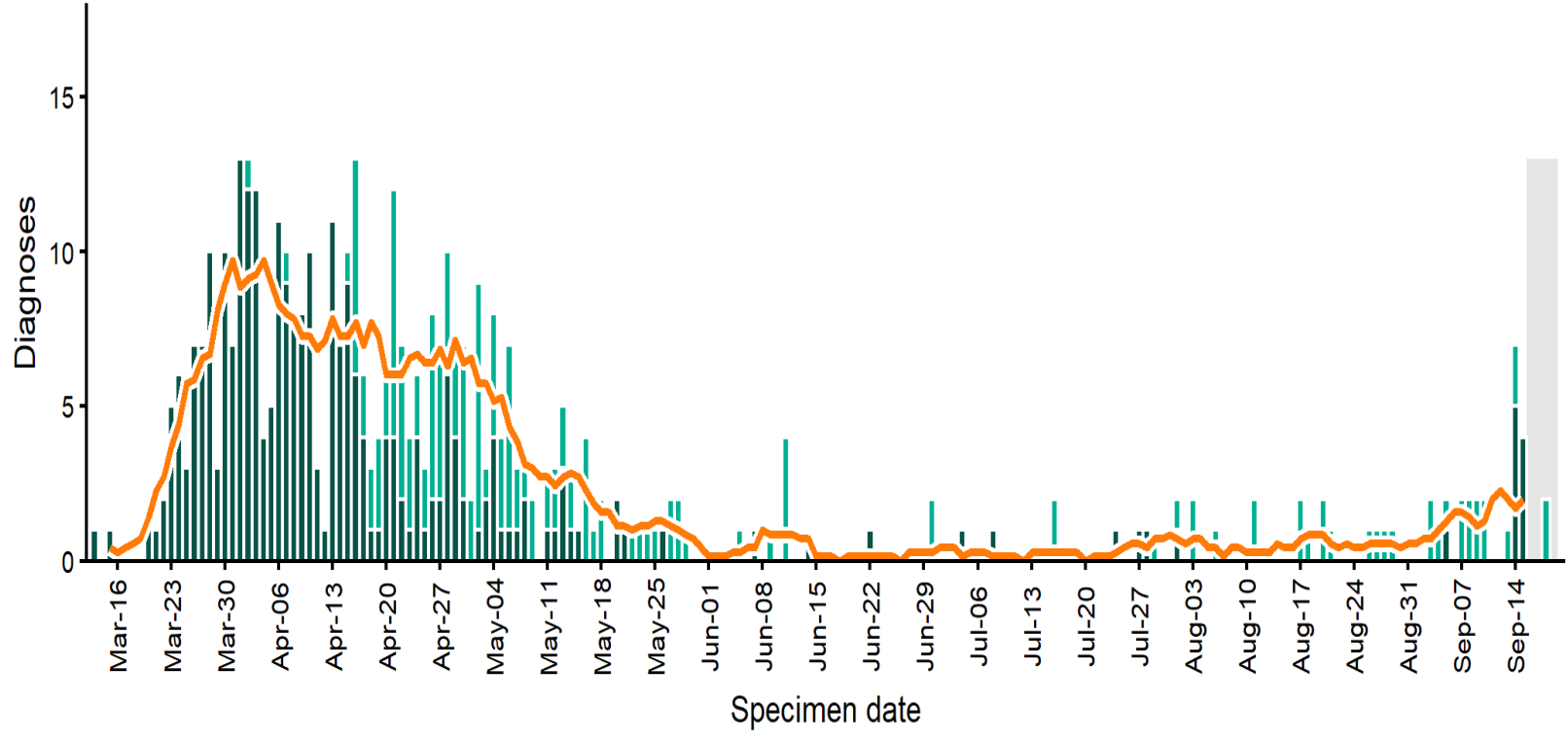
33. **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

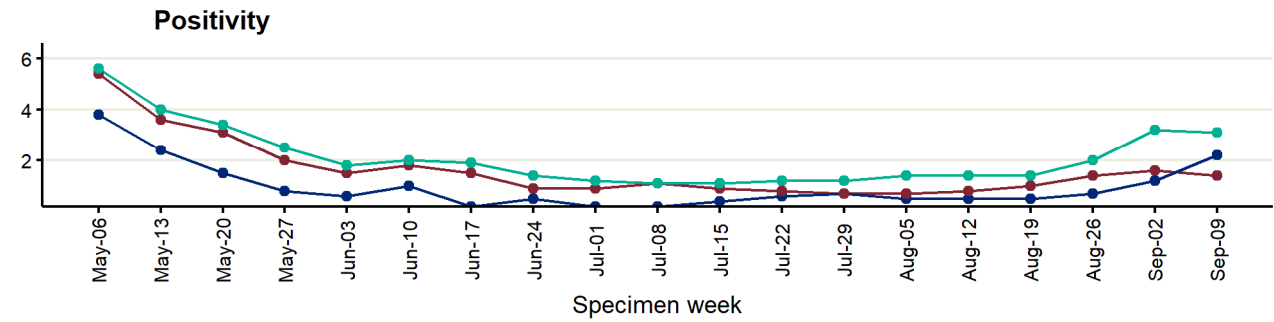
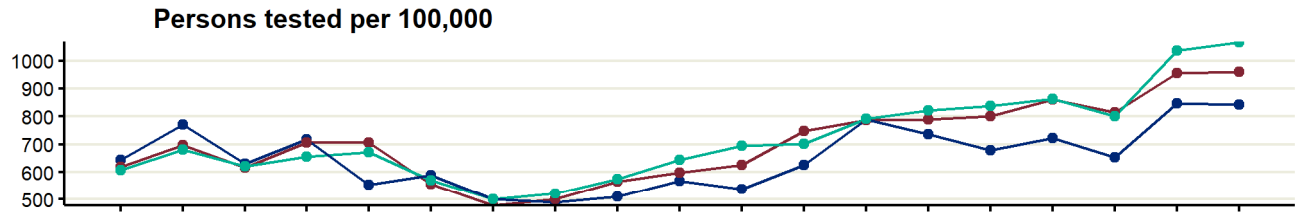
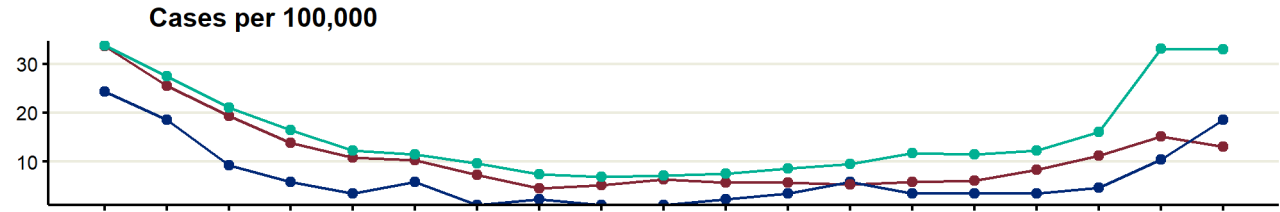
The Working Group agreed that meetings should continue on a monthly basis.

34. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP





● East of England ● England ● Harlow

Rank (Highest incidence)	LTLA	Region	Rate per 100,000 population			
			Prior 7 days	Most recent 7 days	Absolute difference	Relative change
			(2020-09-02 to 2020-09-08)	(2020-09-09 to 2020-09-15)		
1	Bolton	North West	199.7	197.3	-2.4	=
2	Hyndburn	North West	96.5	147.2	50.7	Increase
3	Preston	North West	107.2	144.6	37.4	Increase
4	Rossendale	North West	50.8	135.4	84.6	Increase
5	South Tyneside	North East	67.2	126.4	59.2	Increase
141	Harlow	East of England	10.4	18.5	8.1	=

Outbreak Prevention

- Working with Essex Resilience Forum on implementing Local Outbreak Control Plan
- Which scenarios?
 - - Single site?
 - - General outbreak?
 - - Travel to/from problem areas?
 - - Others?

Key messages/steps/issues

1. Local comms campaign: 'Hands, Face, Space'
2. Increase visits to 'at risk' premises
3. Close liaison with police & co-ordinate community safety patrols
4. Test & Trace – responsibility of ECC with some local input
5. Better liaison with non-Essex authorities