

## **Hambleton District Council**

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 1 December 2020

**Subject:** **Hambleton Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan**

**Portfolio Holder:** Economic Development and Finance  
Councillor P R Wilkinson

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

---

### **1.0 Purpose and Background**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Hambleton Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan, attached as Annex A to the report.
- 1.2 Since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, businesses have faced significant challenges in the operating environment including restrictions on trading, difficulties with accessing the market and changes to consumer behaviour.
- 1.3 This has had a negative impact on the local economy and the York & North Yorkshire LEP report that 113,300 employees were on the furlough scheme at the end of June, high street footfall declined by 60% nationally and almost a quarter of all businesses had to temporarily close or pause trading at the start of Covid-19. The hardest hit sectors are tourism and retail which are formed from nearly a quarter of businesses. The LEP estimate that the regional economy will drop by 7.6%, equating to a decrease of £1.5bn and 31,000 individuals becoming newly unemployed.
- 1.4 The council has worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to provide support to businesses through the administration of government grants, providing guidance on how to operate businesses Covid-safely and providing materials to support safe reopening following the easing of lockdown restrictions.
- 1.5 York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership have produced a plan to reshape the regional economy and emerge from the Covid-19 crisis as a greener, fairer and stronger place. It aims at a strategic level to protect jobs and businesses; create new job opportunities and reshape the region's economy across four key themes of:
  - Place and Infrastructure
  - People and Communities
  - Business and Innovation
  - Low Carbon and Environment
- 1.6 The Hambleton Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan supports the LEP strategic vision and will deliver tangible, operational support to businesses at the frontline. The initial phase of the plan covers the immediate response, relief and support through the first 0-12 months of the crisis. The later phase of the plan supports businesses in economic recovery and in developing their resilience in the immediate post-covid world, 12-18+ months.

1.7 The situation with the Covid-19 pandemic and how it affects Hambleton businesses changes regularly and any future restrictions will impact further on economic stability and growth. For this reason, the Hambleton Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan is a living document that will need to be constantly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest position.

## 2.0 Link to Council Priorities

2.1 This plan aims to support economic recovery in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and build future resilience of businesses based within Hambleton district; this supports the Council priority of Driving Economic Vitality.

## 3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 The key risk is in not approving the recommendation(s) as shown below:-

Risk	Implication	Gross Prob	Gross Imp	Gross Total	Preventative action	Net Prob	Net Imp	Net Total
Without support, businesses within Hambleton district are unable to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.	The local economy goes into decline leading to business closures or retraction and loss of jobs.	4	5	20	Develop an action plan to assist businesses to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and become more resilient for future challenges.	2	4	8

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

There are no significant risks associated with approving the recommendation.

## 4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The plan is deliverable within existing resources and budgets, this includes the Economic Development Fund and project specific funding that has been secured: High Street Heritage Action Zone, Reopening High Streets Safely grant, Getting Building Fund, LEP Local Growth Fund and other grants provided by central government; as well as the Future High Streets Fund (if successful) for projects related to the FHSF scheme.

## 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

## 6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that:-

- (1) the Hambleton Covid-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan is adopted;  
and
- (2) the plan is regularly reviewed and with the agreement of the Portfolio Holder is amended to respond to the changing Covid-19 situation.

Helen Kemp  
Director of Economy and Planning

**Background papers:** 'Covid-19 A Plan to reshape our Economy' York & North  
Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

**Author ref:** HK

**Contact:** Helen Kemp  
Director of Economy and Planning  
01642 767204