

# Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Agenda  
Item:

**A.4**

Meeting Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Portfolio: Cross-cutting

Key Decision: No

Within Policy and  
Budget Framework Yes

Public / Private Public

Title: Emergency Planning and evolving approach to community engagement  
and climate change

Report of: Policy & Communications Manager  
Partnership Manager

Report Number: Funding & Development Officer  
PC.25/20

## Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic response and recovery, with an emphasis on the evolving approach to community engagement and climate change.

## Recommendations:

- The panel is asked to consider, comment on and scrutinise the report.

## Tracking

Scrutiny:	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel 8/10/20
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# 1. BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the ongoing response and recovery work relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This report also provides an update on the last submission to the Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The focus is on the Panel's remit, with a steer from the Panel's resolutions to include statistical information regarding the impact of the pandemic on the climate and the health and wellbeing of residents in Carlisle.

The County Council publishes a **weekly update** on the COVID-19 situation in Cumbria, bringing together local and national data to provide an overview of what is happening locally. This weekly report includes details on:

- R-value and growth rate.
- Weekly rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 tested.

The County Council has consulted on and published a **Local Outbreak Control Plan**, in partnership through the **Health Protection Board**. This plan also sits alongside the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum's (CLRF) Pandemic Influenza Response Plan.

## 1.2 Response

The Joint Biological Security Centre is using a Covid-19 alert level to inform decisions and to explain the level of disease risk to the public. There are five levels:

- Level 1: Covid-19 is not known to be present in the UK
- Level 2: Covid-19 is present in the UK, but the number of cases and transmission is low
- Level 3: Covid-19 is in general circulation
- Level 4: Covid-19 is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially
- Level 5: as level 4 and there is a risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September the level moved from 3 to 4, a level that it had been at previously on 19 June. This now means that the Covid-19 is in general circulation in the community and the rate of transmission is high or rising exponentially.

Prior to this announcement, in response to the situation in Barrow where incidents have increased rapidly (18/8/20) the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum has increased the frequency of the Strategic Coordination Group meetings and reinstated Tactical Coordination Group meetings.

## 1.3 Recovery

The Strategic Recovery Coordination Group has reduced its frequency of meetings to fortnightly. An initial round-up of locality/district recovery work has been completed with a broadly similar local partnership structure being proposed across each area.

This proposed partnership structure is presented in Appendix A, this sets the framework for recovery and partnership work.

## 1.4 Impact Assessment

Throughout the pandemic, the core function of the Multi Agency Information Cell (MAIC) has been to produce the common operating picture (data, information and intelligence) that has informed and supported the tactical and strategic co-ordinating groups and other responders. The MAIC is made up of officers from all district councils, Cumbria County Council, NHS, local health boards, Cumbria Police and other responders when required. The MAIC has been essential for evidence based and intelligence-led decisions to be made.

The MAIC is currently focusing on four critical work streams:

- Shielding and vulnerable people
- Local Outbreak monitoring and reporting to the Health Protection Board
- Modelling and scenarios for winter preparedness
- Impact Assessment

To inform the recovery work the MAIC is developing an Impact Assessment, drawing together information from across all responders and the experiences of communities. The draft framework covers the human, economic, environmental and infrastructure impacts.

Key statistics for the impact on health and wellbeing are presented below:

Measures	Carlisle	Cumbria	Data to
<b>VULNERABLE PEOPLE</b>			
Number of households who contacted the Cumbria COVID-19 Emergency Support Helpline	656	2,800	18-Aug-20
Number of free food parcels delivered under the national scheme	4,220	22,230	18-Aug-20
Number of individuals in receipt of free food parcels	672	3,164	18-Aug-20
Number of people on the Shielding List	3,742	21,917	16-Aug-20
Additional households identified as requiring support as a result of COVID-19	656	2,800	18-Aug-20
Number of households requiring urgent help with prescriptions	270	1,220	18-Aug-20
Number of community groups providing COVID-19 related help and support to the local community	8	218	22-Jul-20
Homelessness - number of people helped into emergency accommodation from 24 March 2020	90	317	07-Jul-20
Homelessness - number of people helped into emergency accommodation from 24 March 2020 (% difference compared to 2019)	12.5%	84.3%	07-Jul-20
Homelessness - Statutory Homeless Assessments from 24 March 2020	185	823	07-Jul-20
Homelessness - Statutory Homeless Assessments from 24 March 2020 (% change compared to 2019)	-30.5%	-9.9%	07-Jul-20
<b>POVERTY</b>			
New Free School Meals applications accepted	304	919	19-Aug-20
Council Tax Relief Scheme (working age residents)	4,943	21,590	01-Aug-20
Universal Credit Claimants - number	8,210	34,454	Jul-20
Universal Credit Claimants - % change since Mar	78%	74%	Jul-20

The key impacts for Carlisle have been shared with the Strategic Recovery Coordination Group and the Carlisle Partnership Executive and are summarised in Appendix B.

The work on impacts is ongoing and two surveys are currently running:

- The University of Cumbria has a **survey** for individuals to capture people's experiences of coronavirus, and the effect it's having on them.
- Healthwatch Cumbria also has a **survey** for individuals which asks general questions about how people are affected as well as more specific questions on access to health services.

## 1.5 Community Engagement

The ongoing work of the communications lead officer group (Strategic Media Advisory Cell, SMAC) has continued to be pivotal in warning and informing all our communities. A summary of the outputs of the SMAC is presented in Appendix C and demonstrates the collaborative power of 16 organisations working together.

The Cumbria Community Resilience Group (CuCRG) and Carlisle Community Resilience Group (CaCRG) continue to meet virtually. CaCRG continues to use its online SharePoint and situation report platforms to update and share key information across agencies.

The CaCRG is exploring sustainable local level community response structures to capitalise on the effective relationships, wider communities, and future challenges and opportunities. It is also looking at how we utilise the volunteer and community response in the longer term for more sustainable and proactive emergency response across the whole district.

To these ends a funding application was submitted to The National Lottery in August to support further community resilience, and we are still awaiting the outcome.

The CaCRG were the first to develop subgroup structures based on community feedback, which was also used to inform the agenda of the CuCRG and SRCG. These are:

- Communities
- Health and Wellbeing
- Children and Young People
- Welfare and Hardship

The Countywide funding bid to DEFRA was successful and is being allocated to local resilience group areas to distribute to key projects across Carlisle. The main focus of the fund was around food projects, support welfare and hardship. The work on emergency and affordable food provision has further led to the development of the 'Affordable Food Project'.

Through the CuCRG, a survey with community groups and partners that were active in response and recovery was shared. The responses that are most relevant to Carlisle have been filtered, anonymised and shared to inform our community engagement. Overall, the feedback was positive with praise for the rapid and agile response in Carlisle. The community response and partnership engagement was also recognised by the High Sheriff of Cumbria, for Carlisle.

A regular Carlisle Partnership email update, which has featured the latest Covid guidance, opportunities, funding, etc has been shared with all partners weekly and been positively received. The proactive sharing of funding opportunities through emails and a regular newsletter has continued with successes in the following areas:

- Affordable Food Provision

- Homelessness Support
- Youth Work
- Drug & Alcohol Support

Support Cumbria is a web-based system, developed to manage the process of spontaneous volunteering and donation of items during a major incident. Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) has produced an update report (August 2020) on its performance during the response. In total, 2094 volunteers registered with Support Cumbria and 1202 of these volunteers were matched to organisations during the pandemic or were involved in helping neighbours and within their local community.

- 65% of volunteers had volunteered before, whereas 35% of volunteers hadn't
- 90% of volunteers said they would volunteer again in an emergency
- 69% of volunteers are likely to volunteer longer term

These figures are useful pointers for future community engagement work in response to or recovering from emergencies.

Appendix D is a summary of other aspects of the support the Council has provided to its communities during the height of the pandemic.

## **1.6 Climate Change**

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the restrictions required to limit the spread of the disease has led to changes in employment, behaviour, lifestyle and working patterns. It is too soon to say if these changes will have any permanence, and therefore any long-term impact on Climate Change.

The consultation on the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, the feedback will be reported to Executive as part of the next steps towards the Council adopting the strategy.

The Member Advisory Group (MAG) met in August to develop the consultation and again in September to begin their forward plan of work, with a focus on Climate Change and St. Cuthbert's Garden Village.

The countywide Climate Change Partnership has been renamed the 'Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership' in line with the successful £2.5million of National Lottery funding. The award to the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership will fund a five-year programme of action aiming to make Cumbria the first carbon-neutral county in the UK, in a way that benefits communities and is led by them

The programme will begin in January 2021 led by the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership, which spans the public, private and third sectors, including community groups, councils, the NHS, police, national parks, businesses and the farming community, among others. The programme will also build strong working relationships among a wide range of organisations across the county, raising their ambition to tackle climate change and sharing learning and resources.

The voice of local people will be at the heart of the programme. People from all walks of life will be able to influence and drive climate action through citizens' juries and other projects, with community groups steering the programme. Young people, whose futures will be particularly affected by the climate crisis, will be able to take advantage of a leadership programme to help them make their voices heard, enhancing their skills and giving them access to people in positions of influence.

The County Council have received funding from the Emergency Active Transport Fund, this is intended to encourage people to walk or cycle by creating safer routes and secure bicycle storage. The County Council have begun work on English Street.

Cumbria is one of five local authority areas selected to receive a share of £1million of funding to set up 'Local Nature Recovery Strategies' (LNRS) pilot studies to help map the most valuable sites and habitats for wildlife in their area and identify where nature can be restored. This could see the creation of wildflower habitat for pollinators, green spaces for people, or new woodlands and wetlands which are important for both healthy communities and in the fight against climate change. The pilots will enable local authorities to set out their local priorities for restoring and linking up habitats so species can thrive, and agree the best places to help nature recover, plant trees, restore peatland, mitigate flood and fire risk, and create green spaces for local people to enjoy.

## **2. RISKS**

Threats and hazards are assessed in the Community Risk Register. Operational risks relating to the Council's Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) duties are captured in the Policy & Communications Operational Risk Register. This register is currently being reviewed through a Risk Management Working Group.

## **3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

Emergency Planning, particularly recovery, helps to improve the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of the people of Carlisle.

**Contact Officer:** Steven O'Keeffe **Ext:** 7258

**Appendices attached to report:** Appendix A: Proposed Partnership Structure  
Appendix B: Key Impacts Summary  
Appendix C: SMAC Infographics  
Appendix D: Community support Infographic  
Appendix E: Hyperlinks to documents/surveys

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:**

- None

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL -**

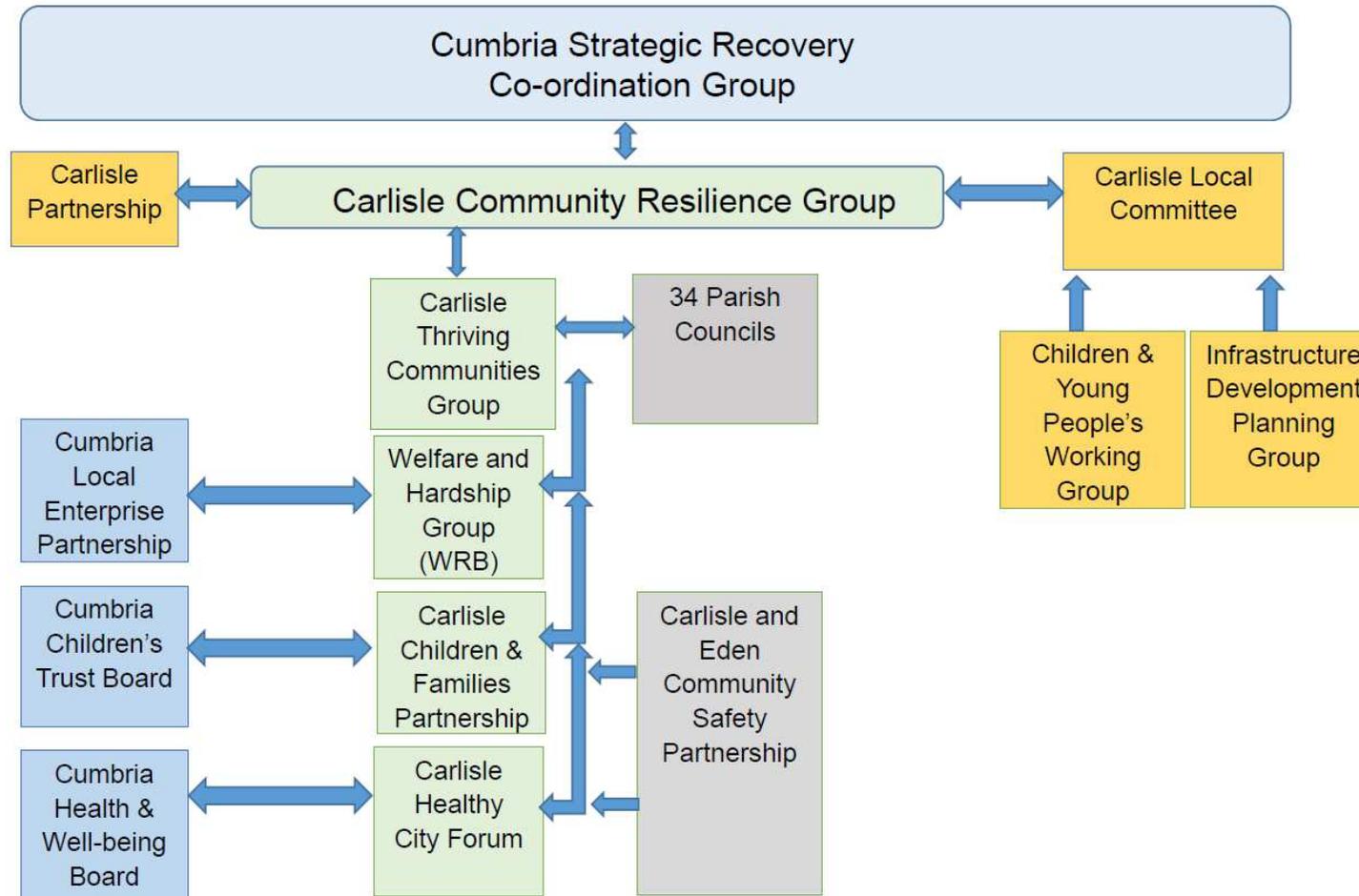
**FINANCE –**

**EQUALITY –** The Covid-19 risk factors include protected characteristic.

**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –**

## Appendix A: Proposed partnership structure

### Partnership Structures



# Key Impacts of Covid 19 in Carlisle

- Additional pressure on an already challenged retail/business sector
- Increase in poor mental health
- Reduced visitor numbers
- Medium to long term high unemployment and pressure on incomes
- More children living in poverty
- Issues around educational attainment especially for current years 11 and 13
- Delayed start for young people obtaining employment after school/college
- More home and remote working: reduced travel, greater use of technology
- Opportunity to be at the forefront of change in city centre: Improved walking and cycling infrastructure
- Greater community resilience

# Appendix C: SMAC Evaluation Infographics

## SMAC evaluation

Sixteen Organisations Working For Cumbria | March 23 – July 10 2020

**1** Finding trusted sources of information during the pandemic.

- 21,844 NEW FOLLOWERS (Facebook)
- 6,939 NEW FOLLOWERS (Twitter)
- 2,196 NEW FOLLOWERS (Instagram)

**2** Sharing trusted information during the pandemic.

- 667 PROACTIVE MEDIA RELEASES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF COVID IN CUMBRIA
- 14,207 PROACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS ABOUT COVID

**3** Keeping our staff informed during the pandemic.

- 1,624 NO. OF INTERNAL COMMS SHARING INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM

**4** Estimated collective reach of Stay At Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives and Treat Our Communities with Respect on our social media channels.

- 65 MILLION

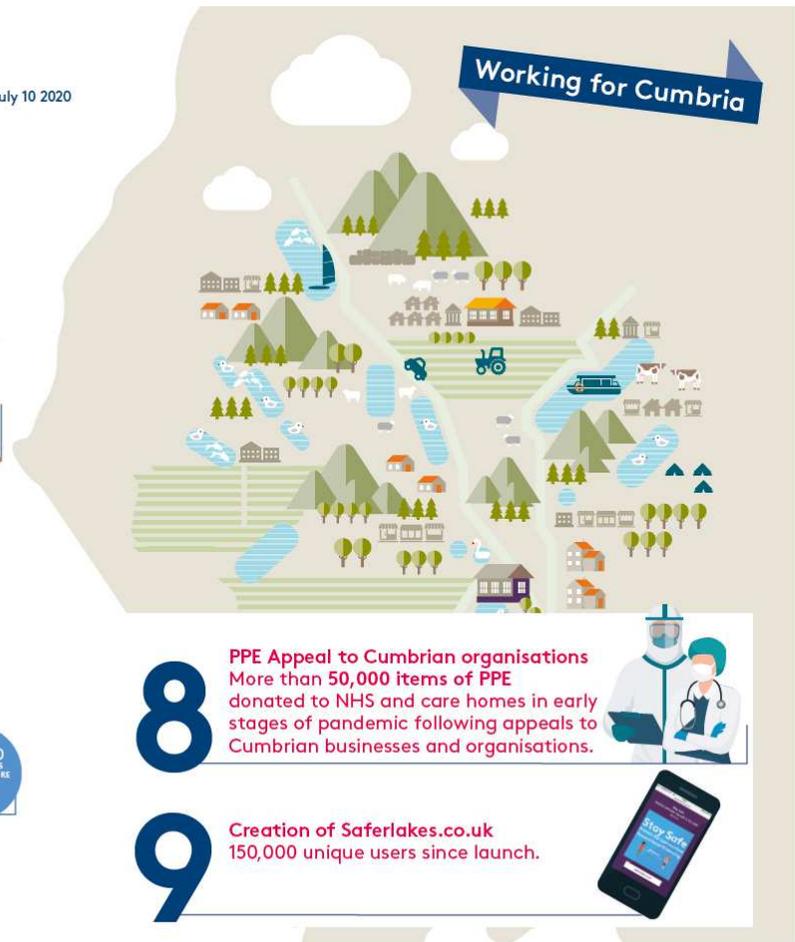
**5** Hits on the 'where to get tested for covid' webpage.

- 34,680

**6** Supporting communities with information about the Emergency Helpline channels.

- 55 DISTRICT FOCUSED NEWSLETTERS
- 68,000 EMERGENCY SERVICES & SAFEGUARDING LEAFLETS
- 220,000 HOUSEHOLDS REGISTERED TO RECEIVE WELFARE SUPPORT LEAFLET

**7** Business Engagement  
To understand the impact of COVID on business, we engaged with more than 2,000 firms.



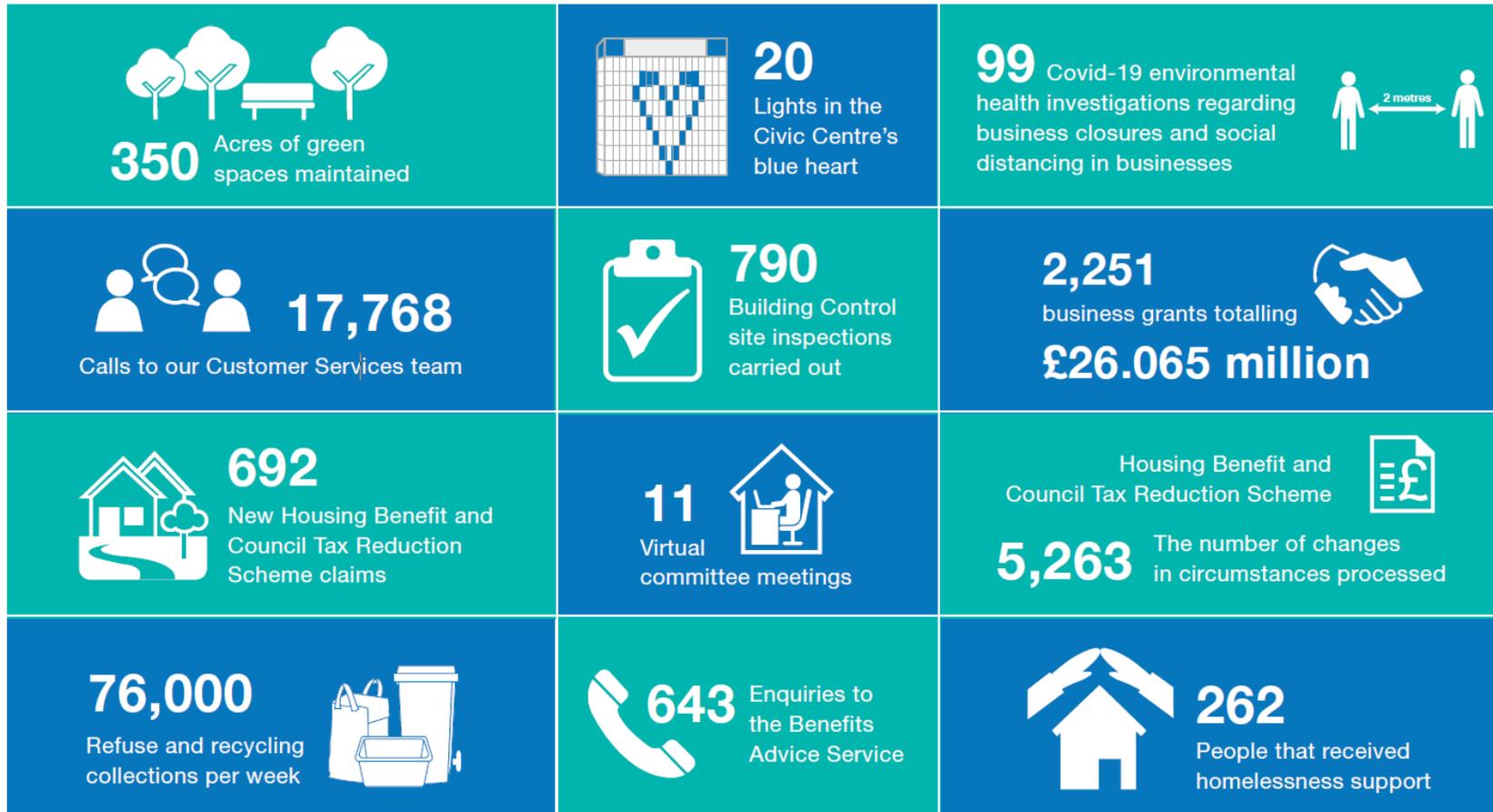
**8** PPE Appeal to Cumbrian organisations  
More than 50,000 items of PPE donated to NHS and care homes in early stages of pandemic following appeals to Cumbrian businesses and organisations.

**9** Creation of Saferlakes.co.uk  
150,000 unique users since launch.



# Supporting our Communities through Coronavirus

23 March - 12 June 2020



## Appendix E: Links to surveys and documents in report:

Weekly update on the COVID-19 situation in Cumbria:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/publichealth/covid19outbreakcontrol.asp>

Local Outbreak Control Plan

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/publichealth/covid19outbreakcontrol.asp>

Health Protection Board

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/publichealth/covid19outbreakcontrol.asp>

The University of Cumbria has a **survey** for individuals survey running to capture people's experiences of coronavirus, and the effect it's having on them.

<https://cumbria.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/covid-19-social-research-survey>

Healthwatch Cumbria also has a **survey** for individuals which asks general questions about how people are affected as well as more specific questions on access to health services.

<https://healthwatchcumbria.co.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-share-your-experience-with-our-survey/>