

LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Legal & Democratic Services
- 1.1 All staff throughout the department are working from home.
- 1.2 There are no members of staff presently off sick.
- 1.3 Members of the Democratic Services team are supporting the Hub, and several members of the Legal team have offered their assistance as capacity allows.
- 1.4 The Committee Services team have been successfully administering school admission appeals remotely, meeting the challenges very successfully.
- 1.5 Marketing & Communications and the Customer Intelligence Unit are operating as normal, albeit remotely. Clearly, there are considerable additional demands, which are being responded to in exemplary fashion.
- 1.6 The solicitors dealing with child care matters are still experiencing a high volume of cases.
- 1.7 There are significant pressures with regard to adult social care work.
- 1.8 Arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the Operational Director or a Group Solicitor are able to attend the office as and when required so that the sealing of urgent documents can be attended to.
- 1.9 Support is being given to the Council's decision making processes by means of advising on, publishing and maintaining a record of officer decisions.
- 1.10 Work continues on considering how best to ensure that decisions continue to be made on an efficient and transparent basis as the crisis continues.
- 1.11 The Schools Forum meeting took place remotely on 18 June and was successful.
- 1.12 Successful trial remote meetings with members of the Executive Board took place on 28 May and 11 & 18 June and meetings of PPBs and the Business Efficiency Board have now been arranged.
- 1.13 Members of the Licensing team have expressed the wish to return to the office on a part time basis, as Lowerhouse Lane Depot is opening for taxis. Work is underway to move towards allowing this to happen as soon as possible.
- 1.14 The Operational Director is representing the Council on a task & finish group across Cheshire authorities in relation to legal powers in the event of outbreaks.