

## **Scotland's Strategic Framework**

**Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place**

**Report for noting.**

### **1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to note this report which provides information in respect of *Scotland's Strategic Framework* response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary**

This report notes the initial allocation of the local authority to the new level based approach to restrictions that underpin the Strategic Framework.

Midlothian is allocated to Tier 3 measures.

The levels set out in *Scotland's Strategic Framework* replace measures currently in place in Scotland to suppress the virus. Each local authority in Scotland needs to be placed at the appropriate level for its situation. This should consider the current and future levels of Covid-19, and how much this is affecting local health services. It must also consider social and economic harms and their impact on the local community.

Regulations were developed for the new levels based restrictions which came into force from Monday 2 November. These are initial allocations and will be subject to weekly review. The first review of the levels allocated to local authorities will be in the week beginning 9 November.

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### 3 Background

The Scottish Government published [Scotland's Strategic Framework](#) on 23 October. The Framework sets out an approach based on levels of protection, each with graduated packages of measures designed to reduce transmission and suppressing the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) to the lowest possible level and keeping it there while we strive to return to a more normal life for as many people as possible. The Framework can be applied nationally or to different areas of the country according to the evolving patterns of infection and transmission.

The Framework, including the design of the proposed levels, follows the “four harms” approach set out in the Scottish Government’s [COVID-19 Framework for Decision Making](#). This explicitly recognises that action taken to suppress the virus can itself cause harm to wider health and to the social and economic well-being of the nation. While the levels are intended to provide a more consistent basis for public understanding their content will be kept under review to ensure as far as possible they are adequately mitigating wider harms while having sufficient impact on suppressing the virus.

The process starts with the daily and weekly analysis of data, agreed with local partners including Directors of Public Health, which will then be considered on a weekly basis by the National Incident Management Team (NIMT), chaired by Public Health Scotland and including representatives from local government. This assessment by the NIMT will focus on the impact of measures designed to suppress the virus (harm 1). The advice from the NIMT will then be considered by chief advisers in the Scottish Government representing all the “four harms”, which again will include representatives from local government. This group will help form recommendations for Ministers on allocation of levels which will be discussed with the relevant local authorities.

Midlothian Council is allocated as Tier 3 at present and the protective level assessment is detailed in Appendix 1.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-3/>

### 4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

#### 4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications related to this report.

#### 4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications related to this report.

#### 4.3 Risk

Given the risk of harm from action intended to suppress the virus, decisions taken on the basis of this Framework and the consequent actions have to be justified, necessary and proportionate.

#### 4.4 **Ensuring Equalities** (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

The Framework is clear that the respective Tiers have to be based firmly in the best available evidence, assessed through a process that is open, transparent and collaborative and frequently reviewed so that restrictions are not kept in place longer than is strictly necessary to achieve the aim of suppressing the virus.

#### 4.4 **Additional Report Implications**

## **APPENDIX A – Report Implications**

### **A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Not applicable

### **A.2 Key Drivers for Change**

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☐ Holistic Working
- ☐ Modern
- ☐ Sustainable
- ☐ Transformational
- ☐ Preventative
- ☐ Asset-based
- ☐ Continuous Improvement

### **A.3 Key Delivery Streams**

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☐ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☐ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☐ Efficient and Modern
- ☐ Innovative and Ambitious

### **A.4 Delivering Best Value**

There are no direct implications related to this report.

### **A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Although there is a clear commitment to engage on the nature and application of this Framework, including full Parliamentary scrutiny of any future amendments to the Framework, it is ultimately for Scottish Ministers to make decisions to apply or amend the Framework, including allocation of levels, in line with their statutory powers to protect public health.

### **A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The Framework published on 23 October sets out a wider context for the decisions summarised in this paper including action underway to encourage and enable adherence to guidance and regulations, and support for business and the economy. The approach is intended to be coherent and comprehensive as no part will be effective on its own.

**A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Not applicable

**A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

Not applicable

## Appendix 1.

### Summary of reasons for allocation of level - Midlothian Council

- Consideration was given to allocating Midlothian to level zero. Given the levels of community transmission suggested by indicator (a) at 107 per 100,000 and indicator (b) at 6.9% positivity it was judged that some level of restriction, indeed significant restriction, was likely for foreseeable future.
- Consideration was given to allocating Midlothian to level 1. The level of transmission in Midlothian suggested by indicators was deemed incompatible with the likely impact of level one restrictions even allowing for significant impact of recent national restrictions.
- Consideration was given to allocating Midlothian to level 2. It was acknowledged that there had been a steady rise in indicators (a), (b) and indicator (c) suggests significant ongoing caseload. As such, on the basis of the evidence of the current situation in Midlothian it was judged that allocation at level 2 was not sufficient.
- Consideration was given to whether allocation to level 3 was appropriate. Given the continued increase in case numbers in Midlothian, it was judged that level 3 was required to suppress the virus and slow the spread within Midlothian.

## Indicator Result 28 October 2020

\*Equivalent level to measures in place from 9 October to 2 November

Local authority**	Cases / 100k	Test Positivity	Cases / 100k forecast	Hospital forecast	ICU forecast	Present level*
East Ayrshire	3	3	4	3	4	3
North Ayrshire	3	3	4	3	4	3
South Ayrshire	3	3	3	3	4	3
Scottish Borders	1	1	0	0	0	2
Dumfries and Galloway	1	2	2	0	0	2
Fife	2	3	2	0	0	2
Clackmannanshire	2	3	3	1	1	3
Falkirk	2	3	2	1	1	3
Stirling	2	2	2	1	1	3
Moray	0	0	0	0	0	2
Aberdeen City	1	1	0	0	0	2
Aberdeenshire	1	1	0	0	0	2
East Renfrewshire	3	4	4	1	2	3
Inverclyde	1	2	2	1	2	3
Renfrewshire	3	3	3	1	2	3
West Dunbartonshire	3	3	2	1	2	3
East Dunbartonshire	3	4	4	1	2	3
Glasgow City	4	4	3	1	2	3
Highland	0	0	0	0	0	2
Argyll and Bute	1	1	1	0	0	2
South Lanarkshire	4	4	4	4	4	3
North Lanarkshire	4	4	4	4	4	3
East Lothian	2	3	2	0	0	3
Midlothian	2	3	2	0	0	3
City of Edinburgh	2	3	0	0	0	3
West Lothian	3	4	4	0	0	3
Orkney Islands	1	1	0	0	0	2
Shetland Islands	0	0	0	0	0	2
Angus	1	1	1	1	0	2
Dundee City	3	3	3	1	0	2
Perth and Kinross	1	2	1	1	0	2
Na h-Eileanan Siar	1	0	0	0	0	2