

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 July 2022	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		Covid-19 Pandemic: Update July 2022	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee note the final report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the council's finances.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Following the September 2020 report on the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the committee requested regular updates on the council's increased costs and income losses and an update on any additional government funding.
3. This report concludes these regular updates to the committee on the pandemic and summarises the 2021-22 position.

Post-Covid: the end of the pandemic from a funding perspective

4. As previously reported to the committee, the government announced only one tranche of general support funding for increased costs for 2021-22, of which Southwark received £11.4m for the period April to June 2022. In addition, some but not all, losses from sales, fees and charges was compensated for, through £1.9m of grant funding. There were no further funding announcements to support losses in business rates and council tax or commercial income.
5. Despite no additional funding, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) continued to request information on the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This regular reporting has now come to its conclusion and the final return was submitted in May 2022, covering the full year 2021-21.
6. In the final return, pandemic-related costs and income losses showed a £1m reduction from that reported in February 2022. The council have fully applied all covid grants, used reserves, delayed projects and absorbed the underfunding within existing budgets to bridge the gap in funding for 2021-22.
7. Despite the financial uncertainty created by the after-effects of the pandemic, central government has signalled that there will be no further specific pandemic-related funding. Local authorities are expected to cover the

remaining covid related costs and lost income streams from their 'normal' budgets.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

8. This report is not considered to have a direct impact on local people and communities.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

9. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant equalities impact.

Health impact statement

10. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant health impact.

Climate change implications

11. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant impact on climate change.

Resource implications

12. There are no direct resource implications in this report.

Consultation

13. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

14. None required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Financial and Information Governance files	Finance and Governance, Second Floor, Tooley Street	Geraldine Chadwick

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	Geraldine Chadwick, Interim Technical Accountant.	
Version	Final	
Dated	4 July 2022	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Governance	N/A	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	N/A	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	4 July 2022	